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Venice summiteers: President Reagan, left, and Chancellor Kohl take time out for a pause from weightier matters at the Venice economic summit to face the photographers. (Photo: dpa)

Clouds of protectionism over economic summit

The writer, Kiel economist Professor Norbert Walter, is a fellow of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies of the Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C.

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

This year's Western economic summit is being held at the beginning of the summer season in a city, Venice, that can no longer cope with the stream of tourists. It has begun regulating visitors and some are even barred at certain times.

Is that in any way a pointer to the likely outcome of the talks held by leaders of the seven main Western industrialised countries?

Will the Venice summit come to be regarded, in retrospect, as the beginning of a new era of protectionism in world trade?

Page 6: It doesn't need a Venice summit to bring home a truth about the dollar.

Is there no way of agreeing on policies that help to tackle the problems that have arisen on a basis of agreement and mutual benefit?

This summer the world economy is clearly not in its fifth year of steady growth, as was almost universally expected six months ago.

In Japan and Germany in particular the domestic recovery hailed a year ago has failed to offset the damper imposed by the decline in exports.

Economic forecasts have been revised downward in the United States and many other countries. Only in Italy and in Britain does economic confidence seem to be unbroken.

One major issue raised at the Venice summit, missile reduction, will divert attention from economic issues.

There will still be a risk of people continuing to hope a miracle might happen and economic problems will solve themselves without further economic effort or economic policymaking.

There are many signs that the provisions of the Louvre accord, reached by Finance Ministers and central bank governors in Paris last February, are felt to be both adequate and fulfillable.

Despite massive market intervention, especially by Japan, it has not been possible to maintain exchange rates at the levels agreed. The yen and the deutschemark have continued to gain in relation to other currencies.

Heavy selling of dollars by the Bank of Japan has substantially increased the amount of money in circulation there, while interest-rate cuts in Germany have been accompanied by monetary expansion higher than either planned or forecast by the Bundesbank.

In finance policy there have been no new approaches — or prospects — in the USA, Japan or Germany.

The reciprocal blockade of President and Congress in the USA should ensure that any reductions in the Federal budget deficit fail to reach Gramm-Rudman levels.

The President rejects tax increases and cuts in military spending, while Congress finds it hard to accept curtailment of other expenditure.

Japan has announced plans for a number of measures designed to satisfy its partners in the West.

But the fundamental problem remains: that of persuading the Japanese to go in for excessive consumption and a policy of further deficit spending.

The Japanese are too keenly aware that the interest burden resulting from continued growth of the national debt is an unbearable drain on resources.

German financial policy is sound but not particularly adept at either stemming the tide of international criticism or promoting domestic growth.

The second stage of German tax reforms will go ahead as planned at the beginning of next year, having been increased in volume as agreed in Paris. Plans for an even more substantial tax reform package scheduled for 1990 are taking shape largely as planned. Relative recession this year and next, leading to higher deficits, will probably dampen Bonn ideas about growth policies.

In periods of economic downturn any serious bid to scrap subsidies (to finance large-scale tax reform) also seems likely to prove more difficult.

So there would seem to be grounds for fearing that lower income tax may be offset by higher tax elsewhere.

Financial policy on both sides of the Atlantic can thus be said to have ground to a halt, while on the other side of the Pacific it makes do with rhetorical exercises and avoids big changes (mainly for sound reasons, in my view).

A second economic policy strategy aimed at solving international problems of low growth (and, in Europe, of low employment too) and of foreign trade imbalance is being more talked about.

It consists of running national economies on market lines and opening markets to international competition. But when the time comes for action, industrialised countries will protect their commodity producers and farmers from competition from debt-ridden developing and industrialised countries while lamenting that their debtors are not repaying interest or capital on loans.

This amounts to a fundamental failure to understand elementary economic facts: a failure that in the past has led to cumulative protectionism, the collapse of international trade ties and anything but the protection of those it is sought to protect.

The new Gatt round is intended to deal mainly with these problems and with creating open markets for services.

But the impression gained is that little or no headway has been made — other than by way of fine-sounding communiqués agreed at international conferences, such as the recent OECD agriculture talks at which Bonn was well represented.

Progress, if that is the right word, seems to be negative, with subsidies to German miners and farmers of all kinds continuing to increase. In the United States, as elsewhere, there is a growing realisation that attempts to help farmers are growing exponentially more expensive and must accordingly be abandoned. But nothing is done about it.

Instead, fresh lobbies gird their loins and clamour for special protection. They naturally all claim merely to be exerting pressure for the elimination of unfair manufacturing and trading practices in other countries.

But if this logic is compounded the result will soon be trade policy overkill.

Will the Venice summit herald a breakthrough to a more open world economy? Probably an unrealistic hope.

It is probably too much to hope that President Reagan's veto will prevail over such economic nonsense as the Gebhardt amendment. The aim of the

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IN THIS ISSUE

Bonn's Pershing missiles seen as bargaining counter

The issue of the double-zero option has now been settled, although the Christian Democrats found parts of it hard to stomach.

All parties, the coalition Christian and Free Democrats and the Opposition Social Democrats and Greens, more-or-less agree on the topic.

But the Opposition heatedly object to the reluctance of the coalition to give up the Bundeswehr's 72 Pershing 1a missiles.

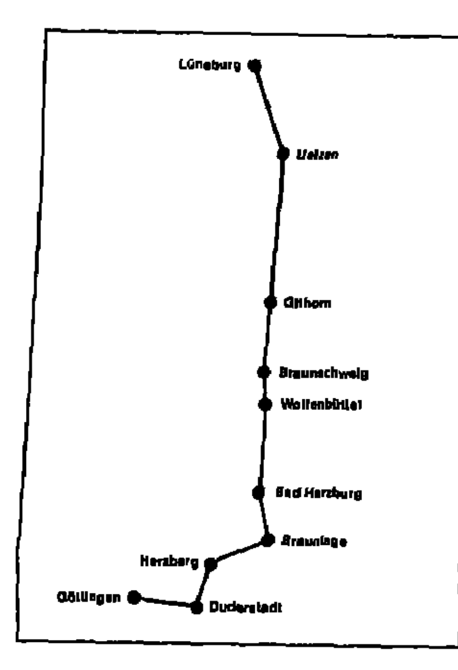
The missiles are owned by the Bundeswehr but their nuclear warheads are under US control. The Bonn government sees them as a military and, above all, a political bargaining counter. If the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles are scrapped, then the Bundeswehr's Pershings will be the only land-based missile still capable of reaching targets in the East Bloc's assembly area and hinterland and performing a classic deterrent role.

Page 5: What the double-zero option might mean for Europe.

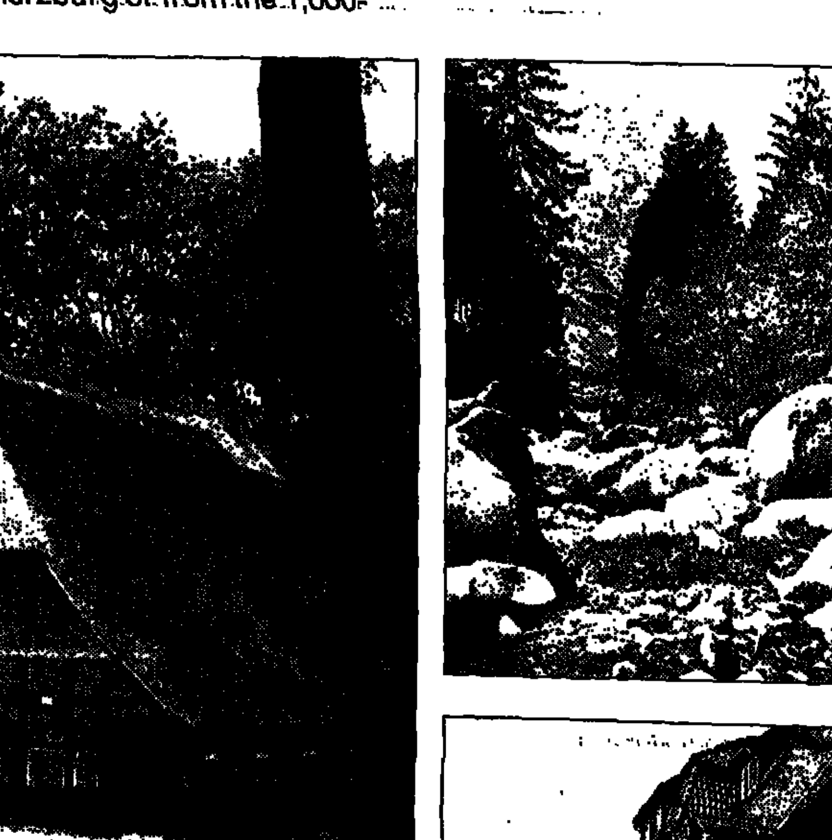
The Pershing 1s will also be a counterweight to the ninefold Soviet superiority in short-range missiles.

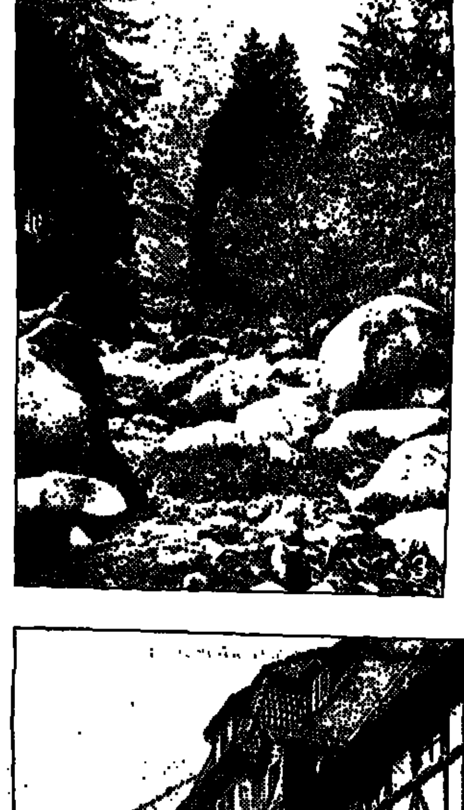
Chancellor Kohl and coalition speakers made it clear that the Pershing 1a

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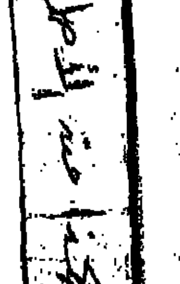


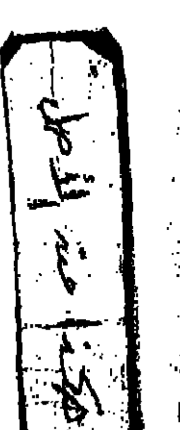












■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Restraint needed, not sabre rattling, in the troubled waters of the Gulf



Baghdad started the Gulf War in September 1980. The Iraqi leaders saw a chance of taking by surprise their neighbouring 18-month-old Islamic Republic where, they fancied, the mullahs had yet to consolidate their power.

It was Iraq that sent in troops to invade the oil-rich Iranian border provinces. It was Iraq that hit on the idea, just over three years ago (in February 1984, to be exact), of escalating the war by stepping up attacks on non-belligerent oil tankers.

Last but not least, it was an Iraqi pilot who inadvertently fired the two French Exocet missiles that killed 37 US marines on board the USS Stark.

President Saddam Hussein is at pains to emphasise that it was strictly a terrible mistake.

President Reagan and Defence Secretary Weinberger may refer to the need to show the flag in the Persian Gulf despite this serious incident (it was the first attack on America's Middle East Force since the "tanker war" began). But they still handle Iraq with kid gloves.

They will hear nothing of "armchair strategists, self-proclaimed defence gurus and seafaring theologians," says Mr Weinberger.

These are people who ask questions such as:

- What business does America have being in the Gulf anyway?
- Whose interests does it represent?
- And why is it jeopardising the lives of US citizens in this dangerous part of the world?

The man in the Oval Office and his Defence Secretary marshal three arguments against these questions: one historic, one economic and the third a matter of great power policy.

- Washington's military presence in the Gulf dates back to 1949. For well over 20 years it was fairly quiet there, especially in comparison with other world hot spots.

Crises and unrest did not come to the fore until the Shah was ousted and a "grimly anti-Western, Islamic fundamentalist regime" took over power in Teheran and threatend to export its revolution.

- The United States feels responsible for the free flow of petroleum through the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz even though it only imports six per cent of America's oil from the region.

Western Europe in contrast imports 30 per cent of its oil from the Gulf — and Japan nearly 60 per cent.

The Reagan administration's convincing explanation is that there is only one world oil market and prices would increase for all consumers if the Gulf were to be closed.

- But Washington is mainly concerned, as Mr Reagan and Mr Weinberger readily admit, with upholding Western leadership, which must not flinch from facing up to anarchy and tyranny — "neither from the Kremlin nor from extremist anti-Western forces."

So America's enemies are clearly defined. They are Teheran (although it is hard to see what makes Baghdad so attractive) and Moscow (not acutely, but latently and in the background).

Regardless of America's formal neutrality in the Gulf War it follows that Iraq, other Arab states and merchant shipping must be protected from the Iranian menace.

Viewed in this light, Washington's latest moves make almost compelling sense.

Half Kuwait's tanker fleet (Kuwait sides with Iraq in the Gulf War) is to fly the US ensign and will thus automatically be escorted in convoy by the US Middle East Force.

President Reagan and Secretary Weinberger are also urging America's Nato allies to commit themselves on the spot.

They are undismayed as yet by the covert — or overt — dismissal of the idea by most Nato allies (the Bundesmarine is banned by Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, from action outside Nato territory).

Yet if Teheran is already branded as the arch-blackguard, surely Kuwaiti tankers flying the Stars and Stripes would be ideal targets for Iranian attack — over and above the seven (now six) US warships in the Gulf?

Are politicians such as Under-Secretary Robert Murphy not right in feeling a showdown between America and Iran is virtually inevitable?

Against what or who would Washington retaliate if any of these vessels were hit?

Besides, is Mr Reagan by flexing his muscles not invalidating the tacit agreement to avoid open superpower rivalry in the Gulf reached with Moscow in confidential talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze and US Assistant Secretary Michael Armacost?

The Kremlin has so far launched only verbal broadsides at the constant US naval patrols, which are said to heighten the risk of the conflict being extended.

There is a growing risk of the Soviet Union coming to feel it is no longer bound by this agreement.

The Russians have not committed themselves as clearly as the Americans have. They too are patrolling the Gulf, although they only have two warships in the area at present.

They too plan to charter three Soviet tankers to Kuwait that would then enjoy the naval support of the Red Fleet.

Yet they have also ordered several Bulgarian ships to take on oil at the Iranian terminal on Kharg island to discourage the Iraqi air force from attacking the installations.

Both superpowers must bear in mind the post-Khomeini era in any consideration of current upsets. They will hope he is succeeded by more reasonable people who do not refuse, as the present Iranian leadership does, to consider any offer of mediation.

Restraint

If they are, then neither the *Bible* and cakes, as offered to Iran by President Reagan's former security adviser Robert McFarlane, nor sabre-rattling will be required. Diplomacy is what will then be needed.

Arab friends have warned *the* United States not to bank too *exclusively* on military strength. They counsel restraint and circumspection.

Do nothing to fuel the fires of the Gulf War is sound advice even when given by a "seafaring theologian."

Helmut Picko

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 1 June 1987)

East, West: who needs to defend who from who — and why?

At its East Berlin summit the Warsaw Pact launched an offensive the West has so far hardly noticed.

Most pundits and politicians were expecting further spectacular disarmament proposals, and when they weren't forthcoming swiftly concluded there was no news on the Eastern front.

That simply isn't true. The Warsaw Pact has gone the whole hog in calling on Nato to discuss the two pacts' military doctrines.

Arms reduction proposals have been made in ample number, the East argues — and it is an argument that can hardly be gainsaid.

What now matters is to debate the objectives of all the military expenditure, which is more than has ever been attempted before.

The prevailing Western view is that the East is a potential aggressor, while



in the East the West is described at school, and not just in the armed forces, in blunt and hostile terms.

Despite entrenched fronts both sides have been interested in arms limitation talks, not least out of economic necessity.

But no-one has yet hit on the idea of holding talks between the blocs on basic defence issues.

In democracies people have always known what they had to protect themselves from; the violent expansion of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe and the brutal methods it used to hold on to power made the message as plain as a pikestaff.

Eastern regimes would in contrast have found nothing more embarrassing than to discuss in public why and by what the West felt threatened. All that has now changed. The Warsaw Pact has couched its latest proposals in terms that testify to greatly enhanced self-confidence.

In suggesting to Nato that military doctrines might be discussed with a view to considering their future orientation the East implies, with brows raised high, the question:

"Why on earth do you feel you need to defend yourselves from us?"

The Warsaw Pact states denote themselves in a summit declaration as models of international law propriety.

Their pact's military doctrine, they say, requires them to solve all controversial international issues by peaceful means.

Never and in no circumstances is force to be used — unless they are are attacked first. No territorial claims may be made and no state or people is to be considered their enemy.

That is all well and good, but what happened in East Germany in 1953? Who crushed the Hungarian uprising in 1956? Who invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968?

Didn't the Polish army have to declare war on the Polish people in 1981? Is there no such thing as a Soviet army of occupation in Afghanistan?

The Warsaw Pact states say they are in favour of scrapping Nato and their own alliance and replacing them with a comprehensive system of international security.

But could their leaders, who were not voted into power in free elections, afford to dissolve the Warsaw Pact? Would the individual regimes survive under their own steam?

Experience so far indicates that they would not. How, for that matter, could a "comprehensive system of international security" work as long as one side continues to claim that its socialism will one day rule the world? The East Berlin declarations testify to the style of Mr Gorbachov. But the Soviet leader has yet to answer any of the crucial questions.

At times other Kremlin *leaders* answer them, but not in a way that makes radical reforms appear an in any way likely prospect.

Yet the West would do well to go ahead with this fundamental debate with the Warsaw Pact. It will then see whether the latest Eastern offensive is merely a tactical manoeuvre or amounts to something more substantial.

Fine-sounding terms such as "security partnership" that are bandied about in the Western debate are sure to have encouraged Eastern tacticians.

Florid terms of this kind *merely* disguise the fact that as long as basic views differ there can only be security from each other rather than with each other.

Moscow may also feel politico-psychological moves are advisable in view of poll findings that more West Germans trust the Soviet leader *than* trust the American President where peace is concerned.

Even so, Eastern strategists cannot conduct the debate solely in terms of phraseology for an unlimited period.

Sooner or later they must own up to how far *perestroika*, or restructuring of the Soviet system, is to go.

Claus Preller

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 1 June 1987)

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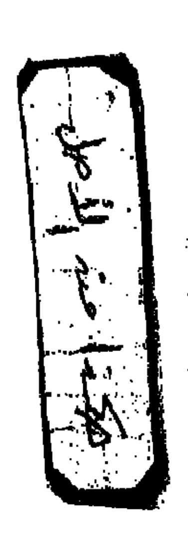
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■ HOME AFFAIRS

New Social Democrat chairman Vogel prepares to sort out the chaos

The SPD parliamentary party leader and party chairman-elect Hans-Jochen Vogel knows he has a tough task ahead.

The party's improved performances in the Hamburg election and the Christian Democrat's mediocre performance in Helmut Kohl's native Rhineland-Palatinate will not, ironically, make it any easier.

The fact that the new phase of detente essentially follows Social Democrat lines is no help, either.

The party has been destabilised by too much in-fighting and is preoccupied with its search for its true identity.

The situation cannot get much worse. This may help Vogel. Progress of any sort will help him.

It will help to consolidate a disoriented and disunited party which is doing little more than clinging to the resolutions of last year's Nuremberg party congress.

Party right-wingers, however, are shaking the foundations of these resolutions without being called to order.

A group by the name of the *Seeheimer Kreis* criticises the the party's proclaimed intention to phase out the nuclear power industry 10 years. Vogel himself was one of the founder members of this group.

For the time being he can take things calmly, since these attacks on party policy have yet to be more clearly formulated.

This gives him breathing space, of which he should take advantage. But how?

Vogel, who needs no tuition on the party's history, knows only too well that

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

the SPD has always been at its strongest when united by an all-embracing issue.

This was the case, for example, when it acquired a taste for reformism and presented itself as a new-style (left-wing) people's party after the Bad Godesberg Programme was adopted.

Things were very much the same after the SPD assumed government responsibility in the Grand Coalition and in the coalition with the FDP.

Ostpolitik, which was a long overdue addition to Konrad Adenauer's policy of *Westintegration*, united the party and mobilised its reserves.

After Helmut Schmidt began his crisis management — something he was extremely good at — SPD members became confused.

They found it difficult to detect party policy in the pragmatic style of the second SPD Chancellor in Bonn.

Today, the dominant issues are missing. If the Kohl cabinet had become hopelessly entangled in the double-zero discussion, and if the coalition had not decided to save its skin by falling in with the position supported by President Reagan and other Western European governments, the SPD would have undoubtedly been highly motivated to do even more to promote its image as a disarmament party.

Kohl's decision and the embarrassing admission that Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher pulls the strings of Bonn's foreign policies put an end to this opportunity.

Vogel, however, is not the kind of politician to cry over spilt milk. He looks to the future and the new party manifesto.

Vogel has emphasised that the party must find a way of combining its commitments to the environment, economic interests and social policy.

At the moment, however, the SPD has little more than hot air to offer on all these issues. The bothersome and paralysing discussion about party-political alliances is over.

The SPD's fixation with the Greens, especially during the general election campaign, has been cleared out of the way.

The Greens themselves will be glad about this, since this discussion also made them unable to act and unpredictable.

Even the fact that the Green fundamentalists are at least willing to tolerate collaboration cannot help the party now.

The Social Democrats will not be keen on walking into this trap. The risk of permament political blackmail is too great.

That the Greens have more or less outmanoeuvred themselves even SPD left-winger Oskar Lafontaine has become more critical of their activities. The election in Hamburg was a godsend for the party.

The party now has an option which was missing since 1982: the possibility of a coalition between the SPD and the FDP.

This is still music to the ears of many SPD members despite the bitter experiences in Bonn.

The Social Democrats, however, have no illusions. Today's FDP has completely different structural features to those represented by the FDP associated with the names Scheel, Genscher, Maihofer and Ertl.

Nevertheless, the new party-political constellation in Hamburg means that the SPD is no longer isolated and at least in demand at *Land* level.

In Bremen, for example, the FDP has also stated that it is willing to form a coalition with the SPD.

Hans-Jochen Vogel will benefit from this. A party which is officially offered a coalition for the second time cannot be in such a bad state.

Vogel realises that the SPD is not out of the doldrums yet. The Social Democrats should spend more time clarifying their position on various issues and less on thinking about how to get back into power.

The content of the Nuremberg resolutions is not enough. Even a government which has to be pressurised into disarmament and is afraid of tackling hot issues (how to finance tax reforms) does not automatically improve the situation of the opposition parties.

The Social Democrats have got to overcome their structural problems first.

Helmut Bauer

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 30 May 1987)

Continued from page 1

would be a bargaining counter if further talks were held on a reduction in East bloc superiority in the short-range sector.

Free Democrat Uwe Ronneburger said the Federal government could not abandon the Bundeswehr's Pershings now even if it wanted to; Britain and France would not allow it to do so.

London and Paris jealously guard their independent nuclear deterrents and say the superpowers have no right whatever to negotiate on other countries' nuclear forces, including the Bundeswehr's Pershings.

Washington agrees. Tacitly Moscow long agreed too, but it not longer does so.

The Soviet Union has called on the United States to withdraw the nuclear warheads for the German Pershings.

The Kremlin has thus broken the firm agreement to discuss missiles only, and not their warheads, in Geneva. This was agreed in view of the fact that only the scrapping of carrier systems (and not of warheads) is reliably verifiable.

Who will back down? Is America and/or Russia determined to risk failing to agree on the double zero option for the sake of the Bundeswehr's Pershings?

The carefully worded statements made to the Bundestag by Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher make it seem likely that they do not rule out Reagan coming round to Bonn's viewpoint.

He might, for instance, decide not to replace the ageing Pershing 1a by an up-to-date missile. That would mean the problem would one day cease to exist.

Jürgen Lorenz

(Kieler Nachrichten, 5 June 1987)

Internal struggle threatens to split Greens

The Greens have always been proud of the fact that their internal problems are not discussed behind closed doors.

The various factions often publicly pull each other to pieces in sharp contrast with other parties.

But what the Greens are now doing is something else. The Realos, the pragmatic wing, and the Fundis, the fundamentalists, seem intent on tearing the party apart.

The Greens of course would not be the Greens if they started glossing over their conflicts, their in-fighting and internal power struggles for the sake of external image.

Their different understanding of how conflicts should be dealt with explains some of their popularity.

The escalating dispute between the two main wings threatens to destroy everything which guaranteed basic consensus between all party factions.

There has been open reference to a split. Both sides are blaming each other for letting things get this far.

On 28 May the Realos even held what seem to be their own party congress. It looks as if the Greens are heading for self-destruction.

Has the party become too sure of itself? Or is this a sign of desperation and a lack of clearly defined policies?

The collapse of the SPD-Greens coalition government in the *Land* of Hesse did not prove that the Greens should not be involved in governments.

Neither do the losses of the Green-Alternative List in the Hamburg election show that the Greens should keep their eye on *Realpolitik* under all circumstances.

Neither left the party on the verge of ruin. Both however, demonstrate that the Greens are (still) unable to handle defeat and learn from their mistakes.

Hesse and Hamburg showed that the party needs both *Realpolitik* and fundamentalism to be successful.

Both groups have good arguments for their respective stances on government responsibility. Both groups have opted for parliamentary activity.

The Realos know that they have the support of many voters who feel that their policies can be most speedily and effectively translated into action via participation in government power.

The argument forwarded by the fundamentalists that the Greens would render themselves superfluous if — integrated into government power — they water down their demands and settle for political compromises is equally plausible.

In the end, the fundamentalists claim, this would undermine Green policies.

A Realo party without fundamentalists would by no means be ensured partnership with the SPD. Such a party would only make it easier for the SPD to withdraw from a few inconvenient issues and move towards their desired partner, the FDP.

A fundamentalist party without Realos would run the risk of getting bogged down in utopian objectives and eventually running out of steam and voters.

At one time, the whole party agreed that the Greens need both positions — the utopian and radical views on the one hand and *Realpolitik* on the other.

The experience in Hesse and the defeat in Hamburg have apparently destroyed this consensus once and for all. Both sides have made serious mistakes since.

The fundamentalists with their inability to clarify their views on violence, their ridiculously exaggerated anti-census campaign, and their all-or-nothing stance on nuclear power, disarmament etc. etc.

The Realos for their part sat back licking their wounds after the coalition collapsed in Hesse instead of emphasising their undeniable political successes so far.

Instead of presenting their own candidates and their own demands during federal party congresses they arrogantly pursued a low-profile approach and then criticised that fundamentalists had "marched into" the party's leading positions.

The multifariousness of the Greens is the party's big problem, but also its big opportunity.

The party will either have to accept this variety or fail.

What is needed is some kind of party discipline to make sure that individual Greens cannot simply express any half-baked opinion and cause a major split within the party.

The Greens will have to adopt resolutions on basic issues and stick to them.

The party must also realise that it should be possible to opt for or against government coalitions in individual *Länder* depending on the specific circumstances.

Ada Brandes

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 29 May 1987)

■ PEOPLE

Heroic, humorous, foolhardy, serious: the enigma of Flight 1 to Red Square

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The daring flight to Moscow by the young West German pilot Mathias Rust is the kind of stuff that, as a rule, only dreams are made of.

The Homeric laughter at the way the audacious young man made a fool of the mighty Soviet Union still resounds throughout the world.

The event conjures up images of legends of yore: the bold and cunning knight who slew the dragon; the lonely warrior who tempted fate; or, older still, David's victory over Goliath.

Not forgetting, of course, the hero of many a western, who rides out to take up the fight against the evil in the world.

Such heroic stories mingle with the more humorous.Many have literary connections: thecase, for example of the honest soldier Schwejk, who always found a way of outwitting the state, or the *Hauptmann* from Köpenick, who defeated all that is Prussian by using Prussian weapons.

It looks as if every era has its own way of reviving the age-old motif of how someone sets off to put the fear of God into the mighty.

Rust's daring escapade follows this tradition.

Mikhail Gorbachov took advantage of the opportunity to dismiss the Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Sokolov and replace him by someone more likely to support the Soviet leader's policies.

Yet this move was more than just a personnel reshuffle to ensure the greater backing of the military for his policy of reform.

What Rust did must have come as a huge shock to all those in positions of power in the Soviet Union.

A private civilian aircraft flies for several hours across Soviet territory, is detected, and nothing happens.

What is more, Rust did not land in some deserted wilderness, but headed straight for the heart of the Communist empire.

His plane finally landed following a few loops of honour on the doorstep of the second most powerful man in the world, a man who could quite easily plunge the world into a nuclear inferno at the push of button.

What use is all the military technology if it can be duped by just one young pilot?

And what would have happened if Rust had been a fanatic kamikaze pilot determined to crash a machine-load of explosives into the Kremlin building? These are questions which are not only haunting Mikhail Gorbachov.

It is this more serious side of the otherwise adventurous occurrence that may be giving Gorbachov a few headaches.

One need only imagine what would have happened in the most extreme case. The latest more than promising moves towards a genuine disarmament would have been immediately interrupted.

Greater tension would have replaced detente. The hawks in Moscow would have regained the upper hand with the convincing argument that the West had launched an attack on the Kremlin. And what if this kind of mishap had hit the USA? Admittedly, no-one knows whether American air defence would have made the mistakes the Soviets apparently made. Yet, assuming a young man were to suprise the USA in the same way — an East German instead of a West German this time — heads would undoubtedly roll in Washington too, not to mention the consequences if there was a bomb attack on the White House.



Russia? Yes, I'm on my way.
(Photo: Power Press)

It is still not clear what made Rust perform his at least aeronautical "feat".

The lure of the adventurous, the challenge of the seemingly impossible or the search for a true test in a supposedly boring and administered world?

Or was this the personally motivated political or humanitarian mission and exaggerated zeal of a young man who wants to make his own contribution to the salvation of the world? Or just the result of a simple dare?

It is hard to believe that Rust was aware of the risks involved, the danger of being shot down along the way to Moscow or of triggering a reaction in the Kremlin which would have ruined all chances of greater understanding between East and West.

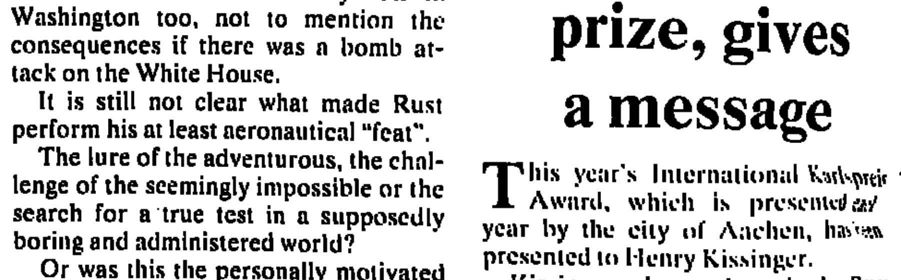
Well, the Soviets did not shoot the plane down, and no-one in the Kremlin seems to be interested in blowing up the issue.

Both Gorbachov and the West have escaped with no more than a shock this time.

All that remains is the experience that no system is so all-powerful that an individual cannot play a trick on it.

Isn't the spirit of Rust's daring at least tacitly condoned by many people in both East and West?

Joachim Worthmann
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 2 June 1987)



Obfuscation is bad, said Kissinger (left), receiving award from Aachen mayor Kurt Malangre. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Kissinger gets a prize, gives a message

This year's International Karlspreis Award, which is presented every year by the city of Aachen, has been presented to Henry Kissinger.

Kissinger, who was born in the Bavarian town of Fürth and emigrated to the United States in 1938, was given the award for his services to Europe.

The former US Secretary of State warned Europeans against "disguised neutralism" and the USA against "disguised isolationism".

Although arms control is a domestic policy issue in most European countries, Kissinger said, it is also "a test for relations between Europe and the United States".

On receiving the award in the Aachen city hall Kissinger also emphasised that the USA should not turn its back on its European heritage and that Europe should not seek its salvation in a policy of equidistance between the two superpowers.

He called upon western countries to show vigilance in their efforts for international security. The unity of the Nato alliance was essential, he added.

Referring to the changes in the Soviet Union Kissinger said that "there can be no doubt that a more flexible leadership has assumed power in the Kremlin".

It had also become clear, he continued, that "the challenge of the Soviet Union has become more complex and more subtle".

The former US Secretary of State warned against the risk of obfuscation.

The "longing of the West for peace", he stressed, should not be misused.

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher praised Henry Kissinger as a representative of a "foreign policy of moderation and balance".

Genscher called for the elaboration of a joint political strategy in response to the development spurred on by party leader Gorbachov in the USSR.

The CPSU leader should be taken at his word, Genscher insisted.

In the wake of the controversy over the award for Kissinger there were no representatives of the Greens or SPD at the ceremony in Aachen.

The ceremony, during which the award was presented by Aachen's mayor Kurt Malangre, was accompanied by the vociferous protest of mainly young demonstrators.

dpa
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 30 May 1987)

Continued from page 1

amendment is to adopt protectionist measures against countries with which the United States is in trade deficit with a view to reducing the bilateral balance-sheet by a specific percentage. These measures are only to be undertaken if unfair practices are found to be undertaken by the country that is in surplus, but no government adviser should have difficulty in unearthing practices to be so branded.

The Republicans are unlikely to want to enter the Presidential campaign without a trade policy programme.

Americans who ignore increasingly powerful trading partners in East and West are felt to be unpatriotic.

What ways does that leave of preventing a trade war? What could strengthen the belief that America's current account deficit might be eliminated in the foreseeable future?

There are signs that the massive Japanese intervention in foreign exchange markets cannot be maintained. That would mean the dollar may not have bottomed out yet. If the dollar does take a further plunge central banks can be expected, despite their denials, to undertake concerted moves to prevent a recession in Europe, to shore up the dollar and to forestall galloping inflation in the United States.

This would be likely to consist of higher interest rates in the United States and lower rates in Europe and Japan.

This response, I feel bound to emphasise, is by no means the ideal approach to a solution of the problem. It is merely the likeliest development given the immobility of financial policy and the lack of strength to go ahead with a radical policy of market opening.

It will probably trigger a recession in the United States and lay the groundwork for higher inflation in Europe.

Little of all this will be mentioned after the Venice summit. There will instead be talk of economic policy coordination, not least because elections are shortly to be held in many of the summit countries.

Commentaries will doubtless note that protectionist escalation was not felt to be imminent, just as there will have been hopes that summit partners would coordinate their economic policies in accordance with objective indicators.

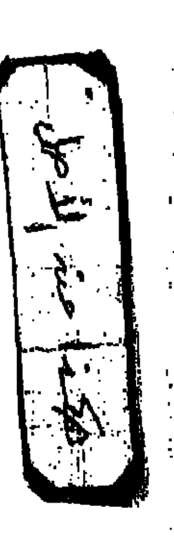
It was agreed at last year's Tokyo summit that coordination was to be promoted at international organisations — an assignment that has been handed on from one commission to the next.

All these exercises were performed (with limited success, to put it generously) in connection with the Werner Plan, the first attempt at a common European monetary policy, in the early 1970s.

This point may be made but it is unlikely to deter the summit countries from setting up a further commission to agree on objective indicators for coordinating their economic policies.

One can but hope that the Holy Spirit will descend on the Venice summit over Whitsuntide, but all our prayers will surely be needed if the possibility is to be more than negligible.

Norbert Walter
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 5 June 1987)



■ PERSPECTIVE

How the double-zero option might affect Europe

The writer, Klaus Lohmann, is a staff member of Kiel University department of security politics.

KielerNachrichten

After weeks of controversy the Bonn coalition has agreed to drop its objections to the double zero medium-range missile option as envisaged by the superpowers.

The Bundeswehr's 72 Pershing 1a missiles, it is added, can no longer be regarded as being on the agenda of the US-Soviet disarmament talks.

The Bonn coalition's agreement leaves no more obstacles blocking the path to a swift conclusion of the disarmament talks. What will the position be in Europe once the double zero option is implemented?

Assuming that, as demanded by the Social Democrats, the Luftwaffe's Pershing 1a missiles (with a range of 740km and a single nuclear warhead under US control) are scrapped as a result of the talks, that would leave:

- about 160 short-range Lance missiles (with a range of 120km and a single conventional or nuclear warhead) in the West, and
- about 825 Soviet SS-21 and SS-23 missiles (with ranges of up to 300km and a single conventional, nuclear or chemical warhead) in the East.

A further 360, largely older missiles in this range category are stationed in Warsaw Pact territory.

The Federal government has tried in vain on more than one occasion to make this imbalance the basis for further disarmament agreements.

References to the conventional imbalance of Nato forces in relation to their Warsaw Pact counterparts are unlikely to make the double zero option for Eurostrategic nuclear weapons any the less attractive.

Public opinion in the Federal Republic has been told too often and for too long that even limited use of nuclear weapons in Europe would have apocalyptic consequences for Germany in particular.

So fewer nuclear weapons are bound to be equated with more security.

In this context it is only a half-truth to mention the appalling consequences of modern conventional warfare.

German national resources worth protecting would undeniably be destroyed to a large extent in conventional warfare, regardless who won.

The whole truth, sad but true, is that irreparable nuclear destruction of a country laid waste for generations and contamination of the entire population would far outweigh any conceivable result of conventional warfare.

True though this may be, it would be wrong to call it to mind in connection with defence planning of any kind. That would be to indulge in voluntary nuclear nightmares.

A society that allows itself this luxury forgoes internal peace and leeway to negotiate the transition to a non-nuclear long-term defence policy.

If what the Western democracies want is to progressively part company with nuclear missile potential in European range categories, prevention of war in Europe will increasingly need to rely on conventional forces.

For 40 years a credible deterrent was provided solely by nuclear weapons in and for use in Europe.

Conventional war prevention by means of a conventional defence capability cannot fully replace Nato's escalation capacity by the terms of the North Atlantic pact's flexible response strategy.

Supporters of the unique double zero proposal for a disarmament treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union deny with reference to the remaining 460 or so Nato nuclear systems in Europe that this would necessarily be the result.

Yet most of these systems are tactical nuclear weapons the use of which would undeniably have self-deterrent consequences for the Federal Republic.

In keeping with Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's adage "the shorter the range, the more German" these systems do not form part of a nuclear escalation potential designed to bring any fighting to a swift conclusion.

They are better described as remnants of the former massive retaliation strategy — or as an expression of Nato's conventional weakness in the days when makeshift arrangements of this kind were made regardless of German interests.

Similar considerations apply to arming high-grade Nato combat aircraft with nuclear weapons. That simply isn't suitable as a selective means of escalation to bring fighting to a swift conclusion.

Their use would come up against — and founder on — the quality and quantity of Warsaw Pact air defences.

Besides, squadrons earmarked for this role would need to have reserves, which would inevitably, given the limited quantity of Nato air forces, be at the expensive of conventional defence capacity, thereby encouraging nuclear escalation.

Submarine-launched ballistic missiles earmarked to defend Europe and under Saceur command are no substitute for Pershing 2 and cruise missiles either.

In target accuracy and destruction potential they clearly form part of the nuclear powers' strategic potential and are thus unsuitable for swift use in restoring deterrent capability.

The same goes for British and French nuclear systems, which have similar roles and have accordingly not been included in the agenda of the superpowers' Euromissile talks.

After long years of dispute the Soviet Union has now acknowledged their political, technological and strategic quality.

So the result of a double (or treble) zero option, the treble covering all missiles with ranges of between 50 and 5,000km, would not be the denuclearisation of Europe.

It would be the inability, on Nato's part, to implement its strategy of politically motivated escalation aimed at ensuring a swift conclusion to fighting. A new strategy would accordingly be required, and where Europe was concerned it woujld have to dispense with nuclear deterrent mechanisms.

Seeking to offset this state of affairs by calling for improvements in the conventional capacity of Nato forces or for drastic Warsaw Pact troop cuts is not a lasting peace-preserving solution.

At the spring conference of Nato Defence Ministers in Stavanger the North Atlantic pact seems to have concentrated on "business as usual," swiftly dealing with the conventional strength of Nato forces once agreement had virtually been reached on medium-range missile disarmament.

Yet serious doubts remain as to whether establishing conventional parity with the Warsaw Pact can either be financed (bearing demographic trends in mind) or is, indeed, desirable.

The prospect is simply too short-term and fails to bring with it any real gain in security.

What is really needed is a conventional balance based on a European forces structure that is stability-orientated and deprives both blocs of invasion capability.

That would be a far-reaching political perspective and thus cannot be made subject to short-term approval by public opinion in the context of state assembly elections.

What is needed is an approach, backed by political science, to a new strategy based on an adequate armament structure of European armed forces in East and West.

This strategy would amount to the European position that has so often been called for, including a genuine (West) German security policy viewpoint.

Strategy must progress toward regional security structures in the Eurostrategic context — just as it has done in the overall, global strategic context.

That presupposes a reduction in the invasion capability of Warsaw Pact forces, and not a conventional balance based on tank counts.

Peace in freedom must, if a credible Eurostrategic nuclear deterrent is to be forgone, be guaranteed by armed forces structures that assure politicians of leeway for action, i.e. consultation, in the event of a crisis.

Warsaw Pact forces must first and foremost forfeit their terrain-gaining invasion capability. That is a high-flying aim for European security policy and clashes with the current role of the Soviet armed forces within the Warsaw Pact framework.

This applies to both superpowers where the global projection of their politico-military might is concerned. The structure of their armed forces must inevitably be geared to this objective.

So security and military policy for Europe will need to draw clear distinctions in armed forces structure.

In the short or medium term not even a clarification process on this strategy for Europe will be possible, so for the time being the question whether peace will be safer once the double or treble zero option has been implemented must be answered in the negative.

At the moment, with disarmament policy, including views on conventional compensation, heading in its present direction, there is a greater risk of conventional war in Europe growing "safer" inasmuch as it could be limited to conventional fighting.

That would surely be a high price to pay for waking up from nuclear nightmares that to some extent are self-induced.

Klaus Lohmann
(Kieler Nachrichten, 2 June 1987)

■ FINANCE

It doesn't need a Venice summit to bring home a truth about the dollar



Exports account for one deutschemark in three earned in West Germany. Prosperity relies heavily on foreigners buying German goods — cars, machinery, chemicals, textiles, foodstuffs, toys.

There are industries where tens or even hundreds of thousands of people would be out of work if the export trade declined badly enough.

Free world trade, with the emphasis on free, is a vital necessity for the West German economy. But German export surpluses totalling over DM110bn last year did cause a reaction.

They and the Japanese export surplus have fanned flames of protectionism in the United States, where President Reagan may have made a few concessions but must fairly be said to have staunchly resisted strong calls for import controls.

This imbalance in import-export trade flows will be a key issue at the Western economic summit in Venice, where the leaders of the seven major Western industrialised countries meet from 8 to 10 June.

These summits achieve little by way of practicable economic policy, but Western leaders at least say, more or less-in-public, what they expect of each other and what they feel the others ought not to do.

The German government will be asked what contribution it has made toward boosting the world economy. US observers in particular feel the world's economy is not dynamic enough.

Chancellor Kohl can point to low German interest rates, to a burgeoning domestic money supply and to the outlook for a further increase in the national debt.

The Federal Republic, he can say, is far from pursuing a policy of austerity.

Even assuming there to have been any risk of the economy being weakened by spending cuts over the past two or three years, there can certainly not be said to be the slightest sign of exaggerated pennypinching anywhere at present.

Besides, the German delegation is bound to point out that exchange-rate changes are beginning to have an effect.

That is an important point for the US economy. For one, the pressure of imports in US markets is beginning to ease; for another, the outlook for US exports is improving in overseas markets.

Modest initial pointers in this direction made their presence felt in US current account figures for the first quarter of 1987.

It took some time for a firm mark and a weak dollar to make their presence clearly felt in German import-export statistics.

Many exporters seem to have cut profits for as long as they could last year to offset lower returns in dollar export markets.

In April German statistics registered their first substantial decline, with exports 12 per cent down on the year before. And even bearing in mind that imports now cost less (just as exports earn less), exports are still down in volume.

That is hardly surprising given that the dollar exchange rate in February 1985 was nearly DM3.50, or almost twice its present rate.

In other words, every dollar German exporters earn is now worth only half what it was a couple of years ago in DM.

That is bound to have repercussions. Either higher prices will make German exports less competitive or export earnings will decline. As a rule both happens.

What *is* surprising is that exports have not been hit even harder. That is probably due, in the main, to exporters in many industries still having earned reasonable profits long after the dollar had passed its peak.

There cannot be said to be any single dollar exchange rate below which exporters start to feel the pinch. Interestingly, however, the chief executive of Stuttgart sports carmakers Porsche, who are strongly export-orientated, recently said in an interview:

"When the dollar stood at DM2 we were earning good money. Business was still profitable at two marks to the dollar. But below that, trouble starts.

"At present we are working on the basis of DM1.80 to the dollar. We manage to make ends meet but aren't earning the profits we should like."

These figures are doubtless untypical of the majority of German exporters, but they do show how profitable (not, in this context, a dirty word) the export trade must have been when the dollar was at its peak.

The present exchange rate definitely comes closer to a realistic valuation of the dollar in terms of purchasing power than the exchange rate of two years ago.

But US opinion ought long to have come round to the view that a purchasing power-related dollar exchange rate is not necessarily the sole yardstick of the American economy.

In the final analysis the dollar's exchange rate reflects US financial and budgetary policies, which with their gigantic deficits have thrown the world economy totally out of joint in recent years.

This self-evident truth is one that does not need the Venice summit as a venue at which to bring it home.

Volker Wörl

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 2 June 1987)

'No option' but to stick with floating exchange rates

Less is now heard of calls for a so-called New International Economic Order. This will in part be due to a realisation that any new order would be bound to resemble the one that existed until 1973.

It was the 1944 Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates, with the International Monetary Fund (now misused by many as a source of long-term credit) as exchange-rate watchdog.

The IMF's role was also as a fire brigade to help out with temporary balance-of-payments difficulties, while the World Bank supplied credit to finance development and infrastructure.

The IMF and the World Bank still exist, although the IMF's role has been reduced. Fixed exchange rates are what went by the board.

All told the Bretton Woods system failed to establish the hoped-for worldwide stability in public-sector financial relations, although it did help to prevent major collapses.

President Mitterrand of France is likely to plead the cause of a new monetary system at the Western economic summit in Venice. He will be on his own, with not even Premier Chirac keen on the French leader's plans.

Just before the Venice summit Swiss banker Fritz Leutwiler, who had planned to keep his views on monetary policy to himself, addressed a Bremen business gathering.

It was the city's *Tabak-Kollegium*, a talking shop that met this year at Schloss Wolfsberg in Switzerland. Herr Leutwiler was governor of the Bank of Switzerland and of the Bank for International Settlements in Basle for many years.

So what he says, modest and unassuming though he may be as a person, carries weight. No central bank governor would dispute this fact for a moment.

He is now chairman of the supervisory board at Brown, Boveri & Cie. of Baden, Switzerland, where he is engaged in an attempt to revive the firm's fortunes.

When he first joined the Bank of Switzerland he was not even permitted to think aloud about flexible exchange rates.

A longstanding advocate of "clean" floating (another term no longer in use), the pace and extent of dollar exchange rate fluctuations has taken even him by surprise.

Yet he remains strongly opposed to returning to a system of fixed exchange rates.

Pundits have come to forget that fixed exchange rates sacrifice stable purchasing power for the sake of stable exchange rates. Dollars were bought blindly, as it were, long after the greenback had forfeited the confidence in which it was once held.

The pre-1973 system of fixed exchange rates was not as inflexible as is now imagined. Rates were periodically realigned, although always too little too late, with foreign exchange speculators invariably making a killing.

But the dollar could not simply take gold's place as a term of reference (although Bretton Woods dispensed with automatic linkage with gold).

The Bretton Woods system did not collapse overnight either; its demise was slow, due to the failure of the economic adjustment process to function and what, in practice, was a dollar standard being undermined by the constant creation of more dollars. Fixed exchange

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■ BUSINESS

Banks react sharply to plan for a new credit card

Interests backed by the retail trade and the catering industry intend issuing their own credit card in competition with existing cards.

Outlets using Deutsche Kreditkarte (DKK) will pay a lower commission than other cards — between 2.5 and 2.75 per cent compared with between 4.2 and 7 per cent.

Credit-card organisations and banks are fiercely opposing this planned attack on their stronghold. The major banks say the DKK operation is "a badly organised, amateur operation." They have threatened counter-measures including a surcharge on Eurocheque business handled by the outlets — an estimated 12 per cent of their turnover is through Eurocheque.

Credit institutions usually manage exert behind the scenes influence to stop any move that is against their interests.

But this time they seem powerless against this rebellious alliance of retailers, hoteliers, publicans and restaurateurs.

There are reportedly 500,000 businesses behind Günther Wassmann and Egon Heider, the driving forces behind the new credit card.

Wassmann is the managing director of the West German retail traders association. Heider is head of the West German hotels and restaurants association. They believe that if 70,000 firms were prepared to accept the credit card they would be in business.

By comparison the well-known Eurocard, which is supported by all banks and savings institutions, has only 64,000 outlets despite years of effort.

The competition from abroad, such as from Diners Club and Visa, is also not much better off in this country. None of these credit institutions, all of them firmly controlled by finance houses, could hope to sign up a few hundred thousand outlet members so quickly.

Retailers, shops, restaurants and public houses are known for rejecting credit cards on the grounds that the additional business does not warrant the high charge.

Wassmann and Heider know this. They propose charges of between 2.5 and 2.75 per cent.

The traditional credit card organisations charge retail outlets between 4.2 to seven per cent. Restaurants and pubs are charged from three to five per cent.

The retail trade claims that not as much as one per cent of their turnover is done with credit cards. West Germans use cheques.

Europeans only pay for five per cent of their goods and services with credit cards. Americans use them for 25 per cent — for shopping, eating and drinking and services such as airline tickets and car hire. West Germans prefer to pay cash or use a Eurocheque. Eurocard, the principal West German credit card, is run by a consortium of German banks and other financial institutions.

Credit cards in use (in millions)

	Germany	EEC
American Express	0.4	2.2
Diners Club	0.2	1.2
Eurocard	0.4	10.8
Visa	0.1	20.5
Eurocheque	19.0	31.6

Source: EC Commission, Brussels.

According to retail trade figures 12 per cent of turnover is done with Eurocheques which banks and savings institutions service at no charge.

Currently West Germans pay for 88 per cent of their purchases with cash, but there is a change in the air to paying for purchases by credit cards as soon as the credit institutions have been able to make up their minds on a satisfactory combination of Eurocard and Eurocheque.

It will take some time before an arrangement is reached. The credit card organisations do not want to take the bread and butter out of retailers' and restaurateurs' mouths and they certainly do not want to risk an exchange of blows with them.

Senior credit institution executives have suggested that there must have been an error in the calculations Wassmann and Heider have made for the launch of DKK.

One of them said that a charge of 2.5 per cent is "a joke."

Deutsche Bank executives point out that the bank has to draw on non-interest sight deposits to operate credit card business without incurring a loss.

The credit institutions believe that the low credit card service charge of 2.5 per cent, that Wassmann and Heider propose, is just a decoy rate offered to outlets during the start-up phase.

Major Frankfurt banks are warning retail traders and restaurateurs. They say that the business is "a badly organised amateur operation," in which retailers and restaurateurs, but primarily Wassmann and Heider, will burn their fingers.

The banks, thrown on the defensive by this development, have gone even further. They have threatened retailers and restaurateurs with counter-measures.

Put more succinctly the banks and savings institutions would apply a percentage charge for handling Eurocheques.

In view of this situation clearly Wassmann and Heider, who are confident

RHEINISCHER MERKUR
Christ und Welt

about what they are doing, are running a big personal risk.

But their plan is being supported by a much-respected South German banking house, that will act as a clearing post. The major banks and this private bank say that Wassmann and Heider will be strained from an organisational point of view in launching their DKK card. Ultimately a massive business will have to be handled. Individual accounts will have to be made for each outlet. But what of the credit-card holder? Will he or she use the card when shopping or eating and drinking out?

People already carry enough plastic cards on them, one from the bank, one from the savings bank, one from a favourite department store, one from a car-hire organisation, one from the local restaurant or pub and one from his or her credit card organisation.

Then an annual fee of DM100 has to be paid whether the card is used a lot or only from time to time.

It seems likely then that people will only use the additional DKK card if the holder gets it for nothing or for a merely nominal annual charge. *Burkhart Salchow*

(Rheinische Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 15 May 1987)

Communist firms begin to use capitalist cash

People in the communist countries of Eastern Europe like the hard currencies of the capitalist world.

They like the American dollar and the deutschemark most of all. But they also like the Swiss franc and the pound sterling.

The state recognises this by running special shops where only foreign currency can be spent: Pewex in Poland, Tusex in Czechoslovakia and Intershop in East Germany. Local money is not wanted.

This phenomenon is part of everyday life in communist countries. Western currency means you can get a moonlighting tradesman to fix the plumbing or repair the car or buy goods which are otherwise unavailable. Local currency gets you nowhere.

State firms are now becoming holders of foreign currency. If they export goods for hard currency they can retain a proportion of the profits on a "foreign currency account."

Poland was the first to take this step. But the Soviet Union has followed suit, giving export organisations the right to retain some of the hard currency they earned, although the proportion differs from one industrial sector to another.

The mechanical engineering sector can retain up to 40 per cent of foreign currency profits, industry only five per cent.

The reason for this difference is obvious. It is easy to export crude oil, but it is not so easy to export machinery.

The foreign currency on the special account has to be used to import raw materials and semi-finished products from the West. Consumer goods are excluded.

The foreign currency accounts are not all that secure. Last year the Polish Bank Handlowy froze 95 per cent of all foreign currency holdings in these accounts until 1991.

The frozen cash was used to pay off Poland's international debts. But this will not happen in the future.

With the introduction of foreign currency accounts firms with them became first-class companies. The "have-nots" slipped to the lowest rung of the ladder.

They also need goods from the West for which they do not get enough hard currency funds from the central foreign currency reserve.

But they are not without weapons of their own that can be used against exporters who are dependent on supplies.

Delays or supply failures can interrupt production and so put a stop to foreign currency profits.

Suppliers use this threat to the full and squeeze from exporters a kind of baksheesh in the form of hard currency.

They go even further with their demands. Suppliers to the Polish truck manufacturers in Starachowice have demanded ten times more foreign currency than the organisation has on its foreign currency account.

These demands show how acute the demand is for imports in Poland. To bring a certain amount of order to the situation the Nationalbank decided to auction a part of the foreign currency holdings of some of the richer firms.

The first auction has already taken place. The dollar reached a price of 900

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■ COMMUNICATIONS

Euro plan to standardise mobile telephone systems

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Many sales reps have a mobile telephone. If they want to make a call, they just pull in to the side of the road and use their pressbutton keypad.

But the moment they cross into another country, contact fades. This is soon to change. From 1991, 15 European postal services plan to operate a uniform digital mobile phone network.

By then an estimated 10 million European subscribers, including two million West Germans, will be able to communicate by car or mobile phone (cellular phones) via the new D (for digital) network.

The service is to be provided at a price the man in the street can afford — as opposed to the DM10,000 or so mobile phones now cost.

In a few years' time the investment is expected to be a mere DM3,000 and pundits feel DM2,000 will be well within reach (which is what the most inexpensive video recorder cost not long ago).

A go-ahead was given a few days ago when Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling talked with his British, French and Italian counterparts in Bonn.

He announced after the meeting that agreement had been reached on a joint approach to the digital mobile phone network.

The terms agreed were a compromise, and not one that was easily arrived at, with France and Germany of all countries baulking at agreeing to proposals submitted by a majority of European Postal Union (CEPT) countries.

Two schools of thought — wide or narrow band — were long at loggerheads, with an open clash occurring at a CEPT conference in Madeira at the end of February.

Narrow band technology is simpler and less expensive, whereas wide band technology, although more expensive, seems likelier to ensure higher-quality transmission.

After protracted debate on regulations and standards 13 of the 15 CEPT member-countries advocated narrow band technology at the Madeira gathering, with Bonn and Paris demurring — on technical grounds, they said.

That looked like putting paid not only to the higher-quality technique but also to a Franco-German joint venture in mobile phone technology.

A consortium consisting of AEG and SEL of Germany and ATR and SAT of France, plus Italtel of Milan, had early convinced the French and German postal services of the quality of their CD 900 wide band system.

It was very much a case of all smiles and Franco-German friendship. Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand had personally prompted this pan-European project at their October 1984 Bad Kreuznach summit.

The postal services of the other 13 countries were not alone in voicing misgivings about the wide band system championed in Bonn and Paris. Objections were raised in the Federal Republic by Siemens of Munich.

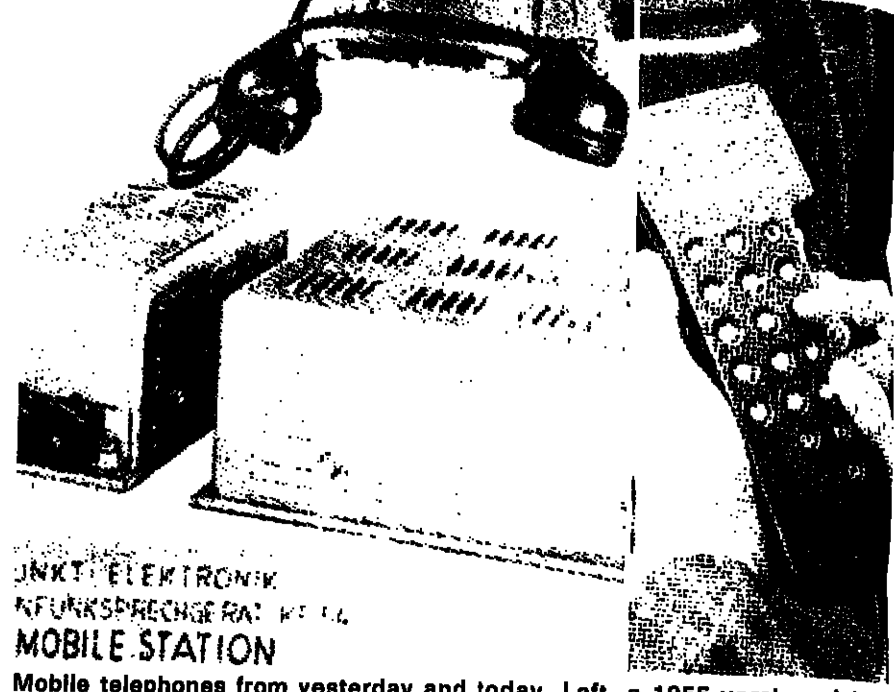
Siemens had developed, in conjunction with Ericsson of Sweden, a narrow band system of its own. Bosch of Stuttgart and ANT of Backnang were also early backers of the narrow band technique — that has now made the running.

France and Germany, out on a limb after being outvoted 13-2 at Madeira, felt unsure of themselves and began to reconsider their position.

The CEPT deadline expired on 16 March. A fortnight later, at the CeBit trade fair in Hanover, the wide band manufacturers voiced annoyance, having sensed that the tide was turning against them.

All that could be elicited from Bonn was the information that the authorities were reviewing the situation. But behind the scenes it was clear that Bonn was on the point of breaking ranks and siding with the narrow band majority.

The French government felt unable to follow suit without further ado; that would mean losing face. So a political compromise had to pave the way to agreement.



Mobile telephones from yesterday and today. Left, a 1955 version; right, to-day's cellular model. (Photo: archiv)

At the beginning of April the French proposed — still behind the scenes — adopting as the European standard a narrow band system devised by Alcatel, a French company.

As a further sop to French prestige Paris made its approval subject to the proviso that part of the wide band system was laid on as an extra to the narrow band system for all.

Bonn endorsed this strategy, assured itself of the approval of Britain and Italy (both narrow band supporters) and brought pressure to bear on the others.

The CEPT countries seem likely to accept the compromise worked out by the Big Four, with a final decision due to be reached in Brussels between 9 and 12 June.

Agreement on the basis of the compromise proposal would benefit all concerned.

First, it would set up a common market with an estimated annual turnover of between DM15m and DM30m. Second, Europe would from 1991 boast the world's most advance mobile phone system.

Last but not least, the narrow band frequencies fit more easily than a wide band system into the gaps between existing radio services left by postal administrations.

A handy portable cordless radio telephone from Europe could go on to become a world bestseller.

The most serious technical problem seems sure to be the system's liability to break down — a problem subscribers to the C network, launched a year ago, are only too familiar with.

Car phone calls are often interrupted when either too many calls overburden the system or tall buildings block the radio waves in built-up areas.

Signals can then be superimposed on calls or distort them. In Austria and Switzerland the mountains add to the problem.

In the analog C network the Bundespost hopes to solve this problem by means of more transceiver stations. Filters are planned to ensure "clear" speech and data transmission via the digital D network.

When the C network was launched on 1 May 1986 a backlog of 11,000 applications for a mobile phone awaiting processing.

Just over a year later about 30,000 subscribers use the C network even though equipment and installation cost roughly DM10,000.

The Bundespost expects the C network's capacity to be exhausted by the end of the decade. It will then number 280,000 car phone subscribers.

The B network, in operation since the early 1970s, has long run at full capacity. It can handle only 27,000 subscribers.

Scandinavians are the keenest car phone-users at present. One car in 27 in Denmark, Norway and Sweden has a mobile phone.

Demand is brisk in less industrialised countries outside Europe, such as Saudi Arabia, with 10,000 car phones.

Mexico plans to set up a system for operation in Mexico City. Australia aims to enter the market. The Europeans hope their expanded narrow band system will sell well in these and other markets.

If, incidentally, you aren't really interested in phoning London or the South of France from the wheel of your car but are reluctant to forgo the ego trip of owning a mobile phone, why not try a dummy?

People who claim to know say they do the social climber's ego a power of good and, what is more, they are far less expensive than a car phone will ever be!

Ralf-Günther Münchow

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 30 May 1987)

Direct-dialling network hooks up to China connection

West Germans can now dial China direct. This means they can direct-dial 419 million of the 423 million telephone subscribers outside West Germany.

STD, or direct dialling, is available to 99 per cent of the world's telephone subscribers. China was brought into the network in May.

The Posts and Telecom Ministry in Bonn says the direct-dialling facility has made people keener to use the telephone.

Ten years ago the Bundespost registered 133 million international calls. Last year it was 465 million. West Germans make 885 international calls a minute.

China's six million subscribers could already dial through to the 27 million subscribers in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Last year they totalled 911,000 minutes of phone calls from China to Germany, as against a mere 196,000 minutes of incoming calls.

The reason was fairly clear. West Germans first had to ring international enquiries and book a call to China, which could take some time. Besides, operator-assisted calls are over twice as expensive as STD calls.

A three-minute STD call to China now costs DM11.04 and is transmitted via Raisting and Fuchsstadt satellite ground stations.

A total of 181 countries and territories can now be dialled direct. They include small Caribbean islands or, say, St Pierre, a French island off the Canadian Atlantic coast.

That leaves 33 areas still served only by operator. They range from pint-sized islands to countries such as Laos and North Korea.

The only European country not on STD is Albania.

As direct-dialling services have been expanded the number of Bundespost operators handling international calls has been steadily reduced to 1,700.

Operators are of both sexes. Most of their work nowadays consists of international directory enquiries.

Horst Zimmermann

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 26 May 1987)

Continued from page 7

zloty. The official exchange rate is 240 zloty to the dollar.

The amount of currency put to auction was small. The purchasers were prepared to pay such a high price because the dollars were badly needed to buy spare parts and raw materials, without which production would have to be halted.

It can be assumed that in other countries that have introduced foreign currency accounts a market has grown up for hard currencies, so that the inflexible division of foreign currency earnings can be corrected.

This foreign currency trading is a step towards East Bloc currency convertability, that is so much wished for.

Julius Struminski

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 1 June 1987)





■ MOTOR INDUSTRY

Mr X declares war on the Mercedes thieves

RHEINISCHE POST

At 8.30 a.m. the owner of a metallic blue Mercedes 560 SEL missed his car in Frankfurt. It had been stolen overnight. He immediately notified Daimler-Benz in Stuttgart.

Half an hour later the Paris police were notified. A Daimler-Benz specialist in stolen cars happened to have noticed the 560 SEL as it crossed the French border during the night.

The unsuspecting car thieves were arrested, complete with the stolen car, by the Paris police that lunchtime.

This quick work was mainly due to the painstaking activity of an expert at the Daimler-Benz vehicle documentation department.

This man (no names, no pack drill) has spent 20 years converting the works files for use as a model anti-theft data bank.

The files list the name of the original buyer, the chassis, engine and gearbox serial numbers, the colour of the finish and assorted extras.

Backed by the latest in electronic data processing, the Stuttgart files make it possible to identify a suspicious Mercedes fast and for sure.

The unit's work began by handling individual police enquiries. Nowadays Mr X of Mercedes is an expert whose vehicle identification services are rated invaluable by police at home and abroad, by the Flensburg vehicle licensing centre and by insurance companies.

He compares vehicle locks, for instance. They may seem a minor detail but they are most important in connection with cars with the wrong key or a duplicate key.

Routing enquiries are made, because cars could have been reported missing or stolen. Thieves fit out stolen cars with bona fide papers from wrecks, change the chassis number and make up duplicate keys.

Stolen Mercedes are often sent abroad to be given a fresh identity, including forged papers. So Daimler-Benz make a note of all orders for duplicate keys and for rear quarter-vent windows (the ones most convenient for breaking and entering).

A growing number of insurance fraud cases are coming to light, says Mr X. He feels a substantial number of thefts reported are bogus.

Neither he nor the Motor Insurers' Association (HUK) are able or willing to be specific; they merely say the proportion of frauds is high.

Mr X has gone a long way toward making cars safer and car theft riskier. But there are limits to the degree of protection that can be provided.

There is no such thing as a totally theftproof car. "We can't manufacture safes on wheels," he says. Yet carmakers can do much to make car theft more difficult.

Ignition keys, for instance, ought to be impossible to duplicate. Daimler-Benz have long supplied ignition keys that are much more difficult to duplicate than ordinary car keys.

Daimler-Benz invested millions in designing an armour-plated ignition lock casing, but to strictly limited use. Thieves that break open a car will wrench out the ignition too.

Briefing the police is another way to make life more difficult for car thieves. Mr X gives lectures at police colleges, to the Federal Border Patrol and even abroad.

In common with other manufacturers he concentrates on vehicle specifications, but he also deals with ignition key analysis and how to spot signs of manipulation.

He is a past master at spotting telltale traces such as scratches at certain points on the paintwork and splinters of glass at strategic points.

The trouble is worthwhile. Every other Mercedes reported stolen is found. On average the proportion for all makes of car is one in three.

Years ago thieves favoured the up-market, de luxe models. That is no longer the case now most stolen Mercedes are shipped to America and Japan rather than to the Middle East.

Car thieves follow market trends. Due to the decline in the dollar exchange rate stolen Mercedes come in all categories. Even diesels are stolen.

Mr X estimates that between 5,000 and 6,000 of the Mercedes privately shipped to the United States last yxear were stolen. He personally traced and identified some of them.

Detective skill, technical facilities ensuring swift action and round-the-world connections are the tricks of his trade.

Even in the East Bloc Mr X's real name is well known by the appropriate authorities.

Beate Glaser

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 23 May 1987)

Survey shows Americans still rate German cars highly

German cars are liked by Americans, according to a survey by a German economic research institute based at Heroldsberg in northern Bavaria. Institute manager Renate Doeblin and Professor Jürgen Doeblin of the Georg Simon Ohm College, Nuremberg, here outline for *Nürnberger Nachrichten* readers findings based on a survey conducted jointly with the US National Family Opinion market research institute. A similar survey was carried out in 1984.

Senior executives of leading German firms and German economic policy-makers are casting worried glances at the US market — and not for nothing.

German exports to the United States are jeopardised by the high DM exchange rate and perceptible protectionist tendencies on Capitol Hill.

This particularly applies to automobile exports, traditionally a mainstay of the German export trade, which face fierce competition from Japanese and US carmakers.

So it is worthwhile finding out how highly the average American rates cars made in Germany.

Probably the most important finding of the 1986 survey, and certainly the most gratifying from a German viewpoint, is that US car-buyers still feel German cars are a high-quality product.

Over 50 per cent of Americans polled said German cars were painstakingly finished and reliable in operation.

In comparison with 1984 the image of German cars can even be said to have improved.

Three years ago 22 per cent of respondents said German cars were economic to run and 20 per cent felt the service network was good.

Last year the corresponding figures were 30 and 31 per cent.

By age and income group German cars are particularly highly-rated by younger and wealthier Americans, which is surely handy for manufacturers of dynamic, up-market products.

German cars rate extra well in the West, particularly in respect of features relating to speed and sporting qualities.

Comparison with US consumer views on Japanese and American cars is most interesting.

Japanese cars are mainly felt to be economic and low on fuel consumption, as practical, all-round cars and as technologically advanced.

Yet only 19 per cent of Americans polled said they felt Japanese cars were fast.

American cars have a reputation for comfort, for suitability as practical, all-round cars and for good looks.

American consumers are less enthusiastic about the quality of US cars. Only 23 per cent say they are painstakingly finished and few would claim they are economic to run.

In comparison with the earlier survey American cars seem to have taken a knock, and they slumped worst in the category that most generally reflects the esteem in which they are held. Only 28, as against 40, per cent felt US automobiles were cars for buyers who were demanding and hard to please.

But Americans who use German cars are pleased with them. Seventy-six per cent feel the service network maintained by dealers in German cars is excellent.

This view is shared by only 31 per cent of US consumers as a whole. Owners of German cars also attach par-

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

ticular importance to driving a high-performance vehicle.

They take a dim view of American cars, with only 38 per cent feeling US automobiles have good looks (64 per cent of all US respondents felt American cars looked good).

Owners of German cars are also more critical than the average US consumer of the styling, comfort, sporting qualities and safety rating of American cars.

How important is the country of origin for Americans interested in buying a new car? Forty-one per cent said it was most to feel their new cars was American-made. Seven per cent wanted a Japanese car, six per cent a car made in Germany.

Since sales of US and Japanese cars are much higher, this is really not a bad score for German carmakers.

In a nutshell, the image of German cars as seen by US consumers is good — and has improved since 1984. This particularly applies to Americans who already own a German car.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 23 May 1987)

■ FILMS

The prize before the pain for Billy Wilder

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The gods said that pain came before the prize, but this time it was the other way round.

After all the official speeches and expressions of thanks, and after American film director Billy Wilder had been given an honorary professorship, the work began, to the surprise of everyone.

Wilder quipped that it was the first time he had written anything for nothing.

Arts Senator Volker Hassemer thanked those taking part in the International Film Archives Conference in Berlin. Mayor Eberhard Diepgen handed over to Wilder the title to his professorship.

Hassemer spoke again, opening the first film exhibition of the West German Film Library in the planned Filmhaus Esplanade.

Then came workmen with a wheelbarrow full of stones. The mayor and the arts senator looked anxiously at the pile of stones, but all they had to do was sign their names on them.

Billy Wilder was the first to sign, followed by the politicians and various other notables.

The stones are to be included at some date into the Filmhaus Esplanade building which, from autumn 1988, will house the Film Library and in the following autumn the Film Academy, if things go more swiftly with the construction than they have with the planning and financing of the project.

In any event a beginning is being made with the exhibition.

No-one knows just how many documents, objects and pieces of equipment are included in the exhibition. Five hundred items come from the West German Film Library Foundation, that has a collection covering 90 years of film-making and the film industry in Berlin.

There are a few thousand other items, mainly costumes, but also other properties that give some idea of what goes on behind the scenes.

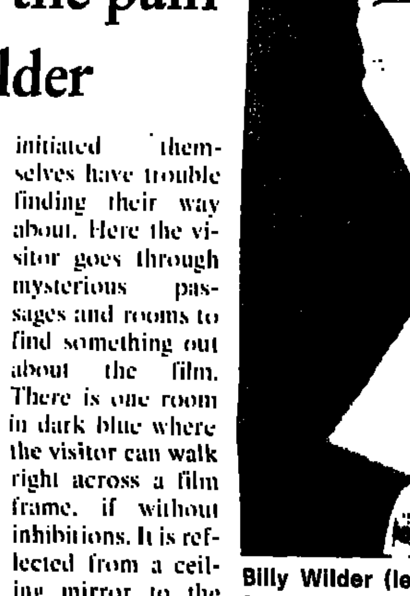
There is a lot to be learned of what went on in the old black-and-white era of film-making and the new one of colour film, from political intervention to technical experiments, that the film-goer would not normally be aware of.

But does what goes on behind the scenes in film-making lend itself to the idea of an exhibition? Ute Berg-Ganschow and Wolfgang Jacobsen have done all they can to develop a practical approach to the exhibition. This helps in creating an atmosphere for passing on information.

Architect Peter Fromlowitz has designed the exhibition for the rooms of the Esplanade that were disfigured in the 1950s. There is a continuous view of film history, giving an insight into what went on behind the scenes.

It was always difficult to find one's way about this ruined building even before this year's film festival. It is still just as difficult to find one's way about with the maze of technical facilities, displays and notices.

But in a certain sense a film studio is a mysterious labyrinth in which even the initiated themselves have trouble finding their way about. Here the visitor goes through mysterious passages and rooms to find something out about the film. There is one room in dark blue where the visitor can walk right across a film frame, if without inhibitions. It is reflected from a ceiling mirror to the floor, half dream-like, half horror-film. The visitor is then in the middle of the world of glowing beauty, hard work and relentless politics.



Billy Wilder (left) accepts honorary Berlin professorship from Mayor Eberhard Diepgen. (Photos: AP)

There is success to be seen. The Oscar that Emil Jannings won six decades ago, the Federal Republic Film Prize that Günther Lamprecht won in 1967 and the Golden Bear that Peter Lilienthal was awarded for *David* in 1979.

There are also signs of the disaster and destruction that threatens the West German film industry.

There is a tablet of honour on which is inscribed the names of those who had to leave Germany in 1933.

A glance at the ruin films after 1945 show what was left after Hitler's dictatorship. Posters bring back to mind the first Berlin Film Festival and a film ball put on in the Esplanade.

There are costumes designed by Henny Porten for Sukowa as Fassbinder's Mieze in *Berlin Alexanderplatz* and for Fassbinder himself in *Kamikaze*.

There are bundles of Kurt Ullrich papers that make up filming scenarios, all from the 1950s from Berolina, the film radio and television production and synchronisation company. His films are just as successful now on television as they were when they first came out.

The exhibition gives impressions of the film world. There is a short passage that seems long because of its perspective. In nooks and crannies there are Berlin items from films about Berlin, *Die Halbstarken* and *Nasser Asphalt* from the past, *Berlin Commissionplatz* and *Die Kanakerbraut* from the present.

If the visitor is inclined to go round the corner, right round the corner, there is a small cinema. There are piles of the everyday things used in a studio, costumes, properties, film cans, equipment, a cutting table dating from 1930, a make-up table used in *The Blue Angel*, also dating from 1930 (done-up in 1987).

Equipment can be seen in operation. It is a tangled world in which everything had to be improvised but which ultimately appeared as if it all was intentional.

There are also opposites to be seen, the old and the new. Here is the work table used by Max Skladanowski dating from 1895, looking for all the world like a table used by an ordinary workman. There a Wim Wenders' scenario, a half-open caravan, a gold-gleaming huge victoria, both from *Himmel über Berlin*, honoured at this year's Cannes Festival.

In between all this there are items of particular interest. Files from the old UFA film studios, the pass used by Fritz Lang, a recently re-discovered scenario for Lang's *Nibelungen*.

There are models, sketches, costume designs and posters.

One would like to browse through the items undisturbed, read the scenarios, but everything is locked away.

Guardians are on hand all through the exhibition that records the flickering film world, the hectic rush of it all, the disorder made orderly. Visitors learn much and are always entertained.

One prominent congress guest, one of the first to wander through the Esplanade, said that it smelled of the studio. What greater compliment could be made to a film exhibition? *Volker Baer*

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 24 May 1987)

Wim Wenders and award for *Himm*[el] at Cannes.

Wim Wenders: subtle and dreamy talents

The Cannes Film Festival is av[ow]edly geared to the commerc[ial] cinema. So how is it that Wim Wend[ers] was given this year's prize for best [di]rector?

He is a man of sensitivity, a dream[er] whose film fables are decidedly vague [in] content, introvert, almost élite, not at [all] to the taste of the masses.

Then he was given a great ovatio[n] minutes long, at the Cannes Festival P[a]lace.

He is a shy man. He is no party-go[er] and he dislikes crowds. But he mad[e a] speech on a festively-decorated sta[ge] thanking the audience, the jury and [his] film colleagues in flawless French [and] looked as if receiving prizes was an [ev]eryday thing for him.

A glance in the press archives [re]vealed that "little is known about [his] private life."

He was born in Düsseldorf in 19[45,] studied medicine and *then went* to Munich film college. He was mar[ried] but is divorced. He has no children.

Win Wenders is a man in which [...] traditions lie casually togeth[er. To] Americans he is very Germ[an ...] and complicated.

But in West Germany he is rega[rded] as the most American of German f[ilm] makers.

He is the tall, slim type who we[ars] horn-rimmed glasses, the typical inte[l]lectual.

But where does he get this inclinatio[n] to piety and beauty, this urge to sancti[fi]cation of a life hungry for feeling?

His last film, *Der Himmel über Berl[in]*, awarded the prize in Cannes, is the [...] answer, is his defence. Wenders wo[uld] never suffer as love is dealt with in t[he] cinema. He is much more cynical th[an] before, disillusioned and done in.

To counter this he continues to ma[ke] films, intentionally poetically passio[n]ate.

He took the love-story of a trape[ze] artiste from Berlin's Tempodrome an[d a] "fallen angel." Peter Handke wrote [the] script for him, a collaborator of lon[g] standing who thinks very much as [he] does.

Wim Wenders, who pours scorn [on] the Hollywood-style film, has got mi[...]

Continued on page 11

■ EXHIBITIONS

Shaping up to life after Beuys and Andropov

RHEINISCHE POST

Joseph Beuys, when asked four years ago what he would do if he were organising *documenta 8* came up with an amazing idea.

He said he would say that this is a summit conference, that Andropov and Reagan, people from Asia, everyone should come.

He had in mind that politicians and artists should consult for 100 days on the world situation with the aim of proposing an ideal structure for society.

Beuys is dead. Andropov is dead. Summit conferences take place way outside West Germany's frontiers, and in Kassel there is only once again art. Only?

The era of political art seems to have come to an end in the meantime, but sculptors, particularly, seem to be interested in social questions.

Bazon Brock, professor of aesthetics in Wuppertal, came up with a slogan that met the needs of the moment: "Power for artists." By this he did not mean a multiple penetration of art and life, after the manner proposed for utopia by Beuys.

Brock's aim, and the aim of most sculptors today is more modest. If an artist cannot put in motion fundamental political changes, he should at least have the right to speak in his own sphere, aesthetics.

The artist should have a say in fashioning industrial products and public places, equally in small as well as large projects — this would open up areas to the artist that would claim considerable attention.

Documenta 8 that begins on 12 June will promote further this trend. Other exhibitions have done the preliminary work.

There was an exhibition last year at the Sonsbeek Park in Arnheim that was a fine example of this trend, satisfying the sculptor's desire not just to create objects for anywhere but for a particular location.

There was Thomas Schütte's *Schutzraum*, placed guardedly on a pathway and Georg Jiri Dokoupil's triumphal-arch-like *Omo-Tor*, set up in the middle of a forest. These demonstrate the sculptor's urge to create for open spaces, an urge that has considerably increased over the past few years.

The open air art display at Neuss, known as the *Kunst-Insel Hombroich*, after designs by the Düsseldorf sculptor Erwin Heerich, has an architectural quality similar to the asthetics applied at Sonsbeek Park.

The artists who are taking part in the open air show of sculpture in the Federal Horticultural Show in Düsseldorf are equally interested in this trend to the open air.

It is not accidental that several works have been located on the periphery of the area.

Klaus Simon, for instance, in the two works he is showing, presents a link between the traffic that flows close by and the neighbouring cemetery.

With his gateway to the Hoticultural Show Erwin Heerich is trying to link the Horticultural Show area to the university park that lies on the other side of the motorway.

Klaus Bußmann and Kasper König have gone a step further with the open air show they are organising entitled "Sculpture projects in Münster 1987."

They have invited internationally well-known, young artists to hold "a dialogue with the city." The results can be seen all over Münster from 14 June onwards.

The American Richard Serra, for instance, has produced a work entitled *Conrad Schlaun recomposed* for the Erbdrostenhof, created by the baroque sculpture Conrad Schlaun. His steel plate reflects the body of Schlaun's architecture.

Ludger Gerdes from Düsseldorf is involved in a sculptural game with three spires for characteristic main churches in Münster.

At the same time the first works in the campaign "Im Auftrag" (Commissioned) will be presented in Essen. The city has proposed more than 40 possible locations that can be used by the 30 sculptors taking part.

The consequence of this trend towards creating sculpture not only for the open air but to harmonise with the architecture around the sculpture is that it has been extended to the area around the *documenta* exhibition and even into Kassel itself.

Manfred Schneckenburger, for the second time artistic director of what is the world's largest and most important exhibition of contemporary art, has commissioned several sculptors with architectural ambitions to put their mark on a few "heavily trafficked and ugly locations" in the city with their sculptures.

Richard Serra is included in this, as well as Tony Cragg, Bogomir Ecker, Wolfgang Luy, Ulrich Rückriem and Alf Schuler.

Schneckenburger has been fairly unforthcoming until now, but he has made some statements only about what these projects are not about. He said that they would not "involve art on buildings, nor wall paintings with bombshell effects, nor autonomous sculpture of a very personal kind. No monuments as fig-leaves to cover up private or public building eyesores. Nor even poetic signs such as the best graffiti on concrete walls in our cities."

Sculptures and art works are playing just as important a role in the park around *documenta 8*. Works by Albert Hien, Magdalena Jetelova, Thomas Schütte and Stefan Wewerka are included.

documenta takes place every five years. Within this space of time architects such as Hans Hollein, Richard Meier, Gustav Peichl and Oswald Mathias Unger have developed the art of museum building. This has taken over the interest in the 1980s that the painters, known as "The Wild Ones," used to attract.

Video and audio art are some of the other highlights at *documenta 8*. Painting is represented by such artists as Enzo Cucchi, Eric Fischl, Anselm Kiefer, Imi Knoebel, Gerhard Richter and Frank Stella.

Joseph Beuys was closely linked to *documenta* (with his *Honigpumpe* and his oak-tree planting campaign). He will be remembered with his bronze *Blitzschlag mit Lichtschein auf Hirsch*, which Frankfurt has acquired for its Museum of Modern Art that is to be opened soon.

With all this opulence it is hard to say what is the highpoint of *documenta 8*, that has cost seven million marks to put on.

Schneckeburger's meagre statements indicate that his show is "a return to art with social dimensions." Architectural projects are most suitable for this.

Paradoxically this tendency to get away from the seclusion of the museum interior, to be out among the people, is occurring at the very same time when a whole new series of museums are about to be opened in the Federal Republic.

The tide of museums is not on the ebb when the art collection in North Rhine-Westphalia is completed and the integrated museums in Cologne. The museums in Frankfurt, Hamburg and Berlin have decided to expand further.

Questions are being asked whether this tendency to open up new museums to store away works of art will continue. It is possible that artists will fight shy of museums as "picture ghettoes."

Who knows, perhaps one day city planners will take note of the heavy trafficked, ugly areas in cities, and pull down a building here and put up a new one there.

It is hard to prophecy what good fortune this would bring to art, but it can be guaranteed that it will not dampen down the urge to create sculptures for the open air.

The view that artists produce works that should find a place in museums has never been so feeble as it is today among sculptors, and today there is an addiction to open up new museums.

Bertam Müller

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 23 May 1987)

Continued from page 10

up with the Hollywood-style film. He fell on his face in doing this when he made *Hammett*, a Coppola production. It was puzzling and messy.

Then Wim Wenders, who despises all things commercial, was one of the first to go to court against his own distributors, Filmverlag der Autoren. Why?

He wanted to have more copies of his film *Paris, Texas* circulating among German cinemas. Wenders, the esoteric, the shy aesthete? Or Big Wim, a guy all out for success, a winner-type?

In any event he is profiting from a movement that can be regarded as wrong or right. The public wants a rest from the big film production. The public wants something artistic.

It is worth noting that Wenders was honoured before at Cannes with *Paris, Texas*. He has only been honoured once in Venice for *Stand der Dinge*..

The harder, the more realistic a film is the more it gives us pleasure in mildness, the twilight world and lyrical wonder.

Wim Wenders, the traveller through life with a subtle talent for self-discovery, is welcomed by our collective western soul.

In the midst of a world in colour an image of oneself in black-and-white is poetic.

His cameraman for *Stand der Dinge* and *Himmel über Berlin*, Henri Alekan, is a twilight artist on a grand scale, a truly classical cinéaste in the art of using light.

With Wenders the frames almost always dazzle more than the text — despite Handke? Or inspite of Handke?

The truth is that people want to have a rest from action films. Wenders, the friend of painting and philosophy since his student days, is just right.

His themes are Odysseus-like, wandering about, lost hope in the future, comradeship and a longing for women..

This also seems to be a contradiction — has he not been called a man of sensitivity? *Ruprecht Skasa-Weiß*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 May 1987)

The occasional meeting of two worlds

Art is one of the most beautiful feathers with which princes in former times and democrats today can adorn their names.

There is nothing new in artists accepting and welcoming the favours of the powerful.

The relationship has become more complicated since power gravitated into the hands of the people and art no longer has a revolutionary or serviceable function, two worlds in which the sun and the moon do not meet but from time to time touch each other.

Not always to the advantage of art, at least not in the Federal Republic, even when Chancellor Kohl points out that "America has it better. On the Old Continent foundation law is more of a penalty than a stimulation to art collector." But that should be altered — soon.

The state has looked approvingly at benefactors who, since 1951, have done what the young Republic did not do — and what the state still does not do enough of, despite sympathetic expressions of good intentions; support art, through grants, prizes and exhibitions.

Officials responsible for promoting art in the Confederation of German Industry have chosen 19 artists they have patronised to display their work in the Federal Chancellery. The Confederation has supported 274 artists over the past 35 years.

The patrons are showing the limits of their tolerance in giving Chancellor Helmut Kohl the opportunity to demonstrate what private patronage has done, the changed relationship between German industry and power to art 50 years after the Nazis described so much art as "degenerate."

But is it in the interests of art promoters, who want to make public, or more public, the artistic forms they have supported in an official exhibition to which only the invited can go?

Art under supervision (by the Frontier Protection Police in this instance) — the pictures and sculptures can hardly be anything else in the Federal Chancellery.

Or can they? If yes, that is due to the power of art that can resist every regulation applied by power.

The Confederation has made a selection of works that can show artistic subversion at its best.

Sculptures by Heinz-Günter Prager and Ansgar Nierhoff and the accompanying drawings, the sculpture designs and the wall pieces by Alf Schuler, Peter Brüning's pictures and Jürgen Partenheimer's drawings are witness of the sensitivity that can be reached with the aid of the wings of fantasy rather than systems of supervision.

It is a good omen that this is accepted at the seat of government — for art as well.

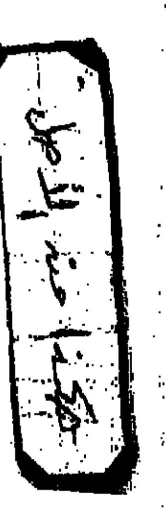
The Confederation is to be congratulated on having mounted this exhibition.

There is room for hope for those who have doubts. The democratically elected representatives of the people have the opportunity of getting to know what the avantgard is in the place where they are used to working.

Coming into contact with art can contribute to an understanding of our world. And where better for doing that than in Bonn. *Amine Haase*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 28 May 1987)





■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Clanking Beachcleaner has a voracious appetite

RHEINISCHE POST

The Beachcleaner is a device that cleans sand. It uses 400 steel prongs to dig 15 cm (6in) into the sand 200 times a minute.

Anything left on the beach, broken crockery, old tin cans, cigarette butts, lumps of oil-soaked sand, are clawed up and disappear in the maw of the clanking monster.

They are then sieved out. The clean sand is ejected and the trash dumped in a container.

Even tiny lumps of oil are separated. The are covered in sand like Wiener schnitzels before being dumped in the rubbish.

The Beachcleaner was developed and is manufactured by Günter Nolte in Hemer, North Rhine-Westphalia. It is the latest idea of a firm specialising in environmental products.

The name Beachcleaner may sound a little too high-class to German ears but the German name "Strandreiniger" is not going to sell it in export markets.

Garbage-strewn beaches are a widespread problem and the manufacturer is confident the Beachcleaner will before long be as everyday an item in holiday resorts as street-sweeping equipment is an almost universal feature of street furniture.

At present it is still a little up-market by virtue of its price. The bargain-basement version costs DM86,000, so hard-pressed holiday resorts will think twice before buying.

Nolte began his career in heating equipment after the war. In his work in oil-fired central heating and as a heating oil merchant he came across the environmental protection market in the 1950s.

In those days, he recalls, anyone could bury his heating oil tank in a hole at the bottom of his garden with few if any safeguards, with the result that soil and ground water pollution was widespread.

He drew up plans and held seminars on how to prevent oil and chemical pollution. Now, with a staff of 35, he runs a pollution cleansing service that is on call 24 hours a day.

He and his pollution-fighting squad have been as far afield as Benghazi and Qatar.

They saw action nearer home last year when 165,000 litres of oil leaked into the Leine (the river that runs through Hanover).

One of Nolte's special items of equipment designed to mop up oil is tradenamed the Wringer — arguably even more striking a name than the Beachcleaner.

The Beachcleaner took seven years from the first glint in Nolte's eye to series manufacture. Plans began when he, like most holidaymakers, was annoyed by oil pollution on the beach, forming lumps that clung to his shoes and feet.

He experimented with mechanised cleansing but his initial brainchildren scooped up too much sand with the trash.

He and a mechanic friend, Horst Wanning, 45, with whom he has long collaborated in handling oil spills, gave the problem more serious attention. Wanning, an agricultural engineer, recalled the potato harvester principle.

Instead of a conveyor belt on which the sand had only two metres in which to separate from the garbage and fall through the grid they devised a mechanical riddle that shook and sieved off the sand over a distance of 10 metres.

A useful side-effect of this technique is that even tiny lumps of oil are basted in sand like Wiener schnitzels and find their way into the garbage container rather than being ejected back on to the beach.

The Beachcleaner can be trailed along the beach at a slow but sure 5kph (3mph) by tractor.

But wheels can spin, so Nolte used a 152hp tracked vehicle to unveil the Beachcleaner at St Peter-Ording on the North Sea coast.

The presentation was attended by officials of the Federal Research and Technology Ministry from Bonn, by *Land* government officials and by representatives of the joint oil accident committee maintained by the four coastal *Länder*.

The committee was represented because Nolte's Wringer, an oil pollution device, can also be hitched to the tracked vehicle used for demonstration purposes.

Holiday resorts have shown keen interest. Bournemouth, England, placed an immediate order. Two junior models have just been shipped to Turkey, where they will clean stretches of beach between deckchairs and parasols.

Nolte hopes to make market headway by going into the hire trade. He says each cleansed square metre of beach in-volves a mere 1.5 pfennigs in running costs.

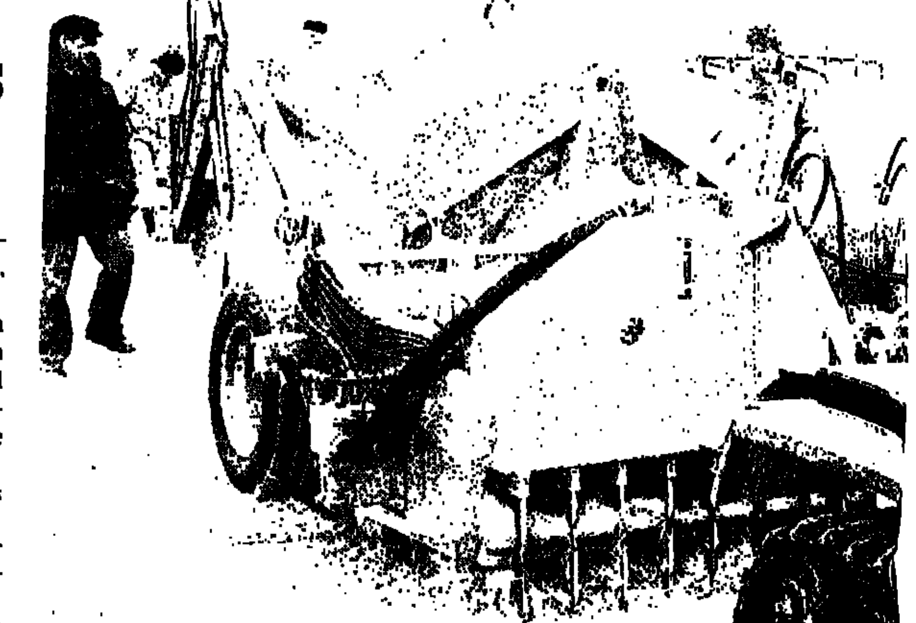
He also plans a competition for the cleanest beach in Europe as part of a promotional campaign.

Nolte, 60, has come up with other uses for the Beachcleaner: In Africa, for instance, it could be used to grub up locust larvae.

With a reference to a favourite pastime of German beachcombers he adds: "We also find amber as we work with the Beachcleaner."

Gregor Mayntz

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 26 May 1987)



Searching for Wiener schnitzels in the sand . . . the Beachcleaner. (Photo: Ma

Polluted air cleaned up by cheap bacterial process

Stuttgart University chemists have developed a simple compost biofilter to treat polluted air. Keen interest has been shown, with enquiries received from as far afield as the United States.

Biofilters have been in use for some time in agriculture and at sewage farms, where the pungent air from cow byres, pig pens and septic tanks is passed through a kind of compost heap.

The smells are digested by bacteria and microbes. What comes out at the other end of the filter is pure air.

Experiments carried out by the housing hydraulics department at Stuttgart University engineering faculty have shown compost filters to be suitable for industrial use.

In a pilot project at a spray-painting workshop in nearby Sindelfingen between 80 and 90 per cent of toxic substances have been biofiltered out of the air.

Air from the workshop contains alcohol and esters from solvents in the paint sprayed that evaporate and hang around in the air.

Other solvents are also retained in

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

the compost filter, where they form the staple diet of the bacteria that do the dirty work.

The micro-organisms are particularly fond of compounds containing oxygen, such as alcohol, acetone, formaldehyde and butyric acid, and of methylene chloride and amins.

The polluted air is pumped through a layer of domestic garbage or bark compost about one metre thick.

The filter unit varies between 20 and 2,000 square metres in size and treats up to 100,000 cubic metres of air an hour.

Once the microbes have grown accustomed to their new "diet" the biofilter requires little or no maintenance.

As bacteria "eat" the toxins the filter cannot clog, so it doesn't need replacing. "The compost merely needs to be kept damp so it doesn't dry out and crack," says chemist Klaus Fischer, who has worked on the technique for three years.

A major advantage of the Stuttgart technique is its cost. Capital investment is a mere DM1,000 or so per square metre of filter surface.

Running costs are substantially lower than purification using active carbon or afterburn systems.

An estimated 300 biofilter systems are already in operation in the Federal Republic. They are used in cow sheds and on sewage farms, in tobacco, fish meal and gelatine processing, in food smoking and spray-painting workshops and in waste oil processing and glue manufacture.

Enquiries have been received by the Stuttgart chemists, headed by Professor Dieter Bardtke, from all over Germany and Austria and even from the United States.

A member of staff has been invited to fly from Stuttgart to New York to brief a congress on biofilter research findings.

Biological air purification seems to be still largely unknown in the United States.

Roland Bischoff

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 16 May 1987)

Probe into why adjacent streets have different climates

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Sometimes different streets in the same centre have different climates. People can feel less at ease in one street than in another.

Scientists have investigated the phenomenon in two streets in the centre of Munich, Ludwigstrasse and Leopoldstrasse.

Ludwigstrasse is lined with monumental buildings in the style beloved of King Ludwig but does not have a single tree.

Leopoldstrasse was bombed flat during the war and then lined with two rows of poplars that now make it pleasant and shady on a hot summer day.

Pedestrians in Ludwigstrasse, where the sun shone relentlessly on the palatial buildings, were found to have higher skin temperatures and to sweat more than those in tree-lined Leopoldstrasse.

"Trees affect radiation in particular," Professor Albert Baumgärtner told the second gathering of a human bio-meteorology group he helped to set up.

He is emeritus professor of bio-climatology and applied meteorology at Munich University.

A wide range of data has been recorded to quantify the influence of trees on an urban micro-climate — an influence previously felt rather than scientifically proven.

External factors such as atmospheric temperature and humidity, wind speed and solar radiation were first measured,

Continued on page 13

■ MEDICINE

The innocent victims of alcohol, drug abuse

DIE WELT

Millions of children are innocent victims of parental alcoholism. Their lives are made a misery and most of the time no one notices.

This was part of the picture to emerge at a conference in Wiesbaden by Caritas, the Roman Catholic welfare and relief agency.

It was the first West German congress of its kind to discuss the problem.

One doctor described how alcoholic parents tended to claim that the relationship with their children was excellent. But most of the time it was anything but.

Sometimes children suffered enormous burdens for years without outsiders realising.

There are an estimated two million addicts in the Federal Republic, mostly alcoholics. An estimated three million children and young people suffer directly as a result.

Yet even the experts still know very little about the problem. Rüdiger Salloch-Vogel, chief surgeon at the Jewish Hospital in Berlin, is one. He has specialised for years in alcoholism and its effects on families.

Dr Salloch-Vogel has been unable to confirm US findings that up to 60 per cent of children with alcoholic parents themselves go on to become alcoholics.

He says the proportion does not appear to be much over 25 per cent. Alcoholism is not simply hereditary, although genes do play a part.

He has also been unable to confirm the theory that sons of alcoholics are more liable to take after their parents than daughters are. But damage of other kinds that accompanies young people throughout their lives cannot be disputed.

It begins with embryopathy, or damage in the womb, causing mental retardation up to and including imbecility.

Then there are the consequences of physical or sexual abuse by an alcoholic father.

They are followed by a wide range of psychosomatic symptoms such as lack of self-assurance, anxiety neuroses, lifelong problems with relations with other people, sensations of guilt, exaggerated activity and achievement mania up to and including physical collapse.

Children of alcoholics strikingly often go on to marry or live with partners who themselves are addicts.

It is as though they felt obliged to spend their lives as overburdened martyrs at the side of others even weaker than they are.

Like Dr Salloch-Vogel, Günther Schmidt, a Heidelberg doctor and family therapist, sought to shed light on the problem with reference to roles played.

There were, he said, firmly-established routines in an alcoholic's family that seemed virtually impossible to break out of.

Take the alcoholic, for instance. He is the secret ruler of the family, alternating between strength and tyranny and weakness and helplessness.

The responsibility he can no longer shoulder is borne by another member of the family, usually his wife but often the eldest child.

Unconsciously this supporting role often helps the patient's addiction to come into its own and tyrannise the family to the full.

Then there is the hero, usually a child who tries to offset the misery and shame at home by superhuman effort at school or work.

Other roles are those of the lonely child, who retreats entirely into a world of his own, or the joker, who keeps everyone amused amidst the misery.

In one way or another every member of the family finds a slot — shrewdly so, one might almost say — in the destructive system of the alcoholic family.

They do so in a state of almost constant tension and panic-stricken fear of failure. That leads to these roles being consolidated and the players being stuck with them for life.

Many families live lives of anxiety and despair for years on end, are plagued by thoughts of suicide and feelings of guilt and feel disgust, swiftly followed by love and readiness to help each other — without catastrophe coming to a head.

Dr Salloch-Vogel referred to a newly published diploma thesis dealing with the strange phenomenon of the "invulnerability of the child." Maybe children really are in some mysterious way invulnerable.

Joachim Neander

(Die Welt, Bonn, 29 May 1987)

Warning about dangers of passive smoking

Parents and employers have been warned by the Federal Health Office (BGA), about the dangers of passive smoking.

The agency says children and adults must be protected from other people's cigarette smoke at work, at home and in public places.

It says: "Involuntary inhalation of cigarette smoke is not only a nuisance: it is also a health hazard."

Twenty surveys had shown that it can probably cause lung cancer.

Specialists say passive smokers stand a twoor even threefold chance of contracting lung cancer.

Other handicaps said to result from the inhalation of smoke from other people's cigarettes include headaches, respiratory complaints, coughs, dizzy spells and bronchitis.

Passive smoking is claimed to be dangerous because some toxins in cigarette smoke, such as formaldehyde, nitric oxides and nitrosamins, are an equal health hazard for passive and active smokers.

The smoke that smoulders, as opposed to being inhaled, is said in some cases to contain higher concentrations of toxin.

The Berlin agency, which is a division of the Federal Health Ministry in Bonn, has in the past been restrained in its comments on the health hazard of smoking and passive smoking.

This autumn the Federal government plans to submit an action programme to encourage non-smoking.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 May 1987)

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then related to the human energy balance sheet.

This balance sheet, drawn up by Munich bio-climatologist Peter Höppe, is based on the assumption that blood circulation and perspiration are controlled by body temperatures (skin and internal).

When personal statistics such as height, size, age, sex, activity, physical position and heat insulation of clothing are fed to the computer programme the result — after complex computation — is the Munich Energy Balance Model for Individuals, or Memi for short.

Thermic well-being, as the mainstay of a humane bio-climate, can not only be measured but also regulated and could even be changed, environmental conditions permitting.

Skin moisture has been identified as a key thermo-physiological factor. If it exceeds 25 per cent the weather is felt to be humid and sweltering.

A few trees could easily remedy this state of affairs, says Professor Baumgärtner. Many data have yet to be classified but:

"Trees wield such a wide range of favourable influences on the bio-climate that they are well worth growing and looking after in the urban environment."

Measurements and market research have shown that a higher proportion of people feel ill at ease in air-conditioned buildings than in naturally ventilated rooms.

Psychological factors are definitely not the cause. The blame lies with inadequacies in the design and operation of air-conditioning plant.

Thermostats regulate only temperature, but humidity and the speed at which air circulates are no less important.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 21 May 1987)

Every fourth child is overweight

About one in four German children are overweight. The main reason is bad diet: fatty, high-calorie food.

The health problems are one thing. Fat children can develop high blood pressure and circulation problems. There are obvious physical handicaps — they quickly become out of breath. And there are social problems: they become figures of fun.

Some fat children are luckier than others. Action is taken before it is too late. Some are sent to health resorts to slim and the bill is paid by the parents' health insurance.

Swantje, 10, and Tanja, 11, are two of the lucky ones: they were sent to a spa at Bad Orb, in Bavaria. They are from different families.

Swantje was thin until she was eight. Then her parents began quarrelling. They separated and were eventually divorced. Swantje was unable to cope. She began to overeat and put on weight.

Doctors refer to children as fat when they are 20 per cent overweight in relation to the average for their age and height.

At the age of 10 and 1.38 metres (4ft 6in) tall, Swantje should weigh about 31kg (68lb). She was nearly 45kg, or 99lb.

Bad eating habits are the main reason. Their food is usually too fatty and too rich in calories.

That was Tanja's problem. She had to eat what her parents ate. "I looked like a barrel at the age of eight," she says.

By the time she was 10 she had high blood pressure and circulation trouble. Her bone structure ran a serious risk of deformation.

She was such a figure of fun at school that she used to lock herself in the toilet during breaks. When she took the dog for a walk in the afternoon she used to hide when she saw other children.

Swantje and Tanja decided themselves to slim. But they couldn't at home. Their doctors eventually told them about a clinic for children at Bad Orb where fat kids lost weight.

A course of treatment at the clinic usually lasts six to eight weeks. Costs are met by the AOK, or state health insurance scheme. At least one private insurer only pays if a child slims at hospital.

Children learn in Bad Orb to change their eating habits, to eat less food and lower-calorie foods — and to get more physical exercise.

Children up to 1.30 metres (4ft 3in) tall are put on an 800-calorie diet, with 1,000 calories as the limit for children between 1.30 and 1.50 metres (4ft 11in) and 1,200 calories for children over 1.50 metres tall.

Instead of three large meals a day they are given five smaller ones — a habit they can keep up when they go back home.

Dieticians work out individual diets for the children. The aim is to help the children to feel a sense of achievement and regain self-assurance — and to promote their mental and emotional development.

Treatment, target and progress are dealt with in group discussions and in a weekly face-to-face talk with the doctor.

Swantje put on weight because of her parents' divorce. This aspect is not dealt with at the clinic. "We can't teach the child that its parents' divorce was to blame," says clinic director Hanspeter Goldschmidt.

"For that we should have to put the marriage back on an even keel. What we try to do is to boost the child's feeling of personal value, to boost its self-assurance so it can handle the situation."

Swantje lost five kilos (11lb) in four weeks. Tanja stayed longer and lost 15kg (33lb) in three months.

"I feel much better," she says. "Maybe I'll be able to make friends again now."

While she is at Dr Goldschmidt's clinic she attends a private school that is attached to the clinic and coordinates lessons with the child's school back home.

Problems arise when children go back home. They run a risk of reverting to their families' eating habits.

But they maintain contact with the clinic. Children brief the doctors on how they are getting on. Understanding parents help by changing their own eating habits.

Parents who are willing to do so will find a brochure issued by the Child's Nutrition Research Institute, Dortmund, helpful. Slimming Together Is Fun is its title.

dpa

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 27 May 1987)

■ FRONTIERS

New university is part of a wider grand vision

A private university in the North Rhine-Westphalian centre of Witten/ Herdecke which opened in 1982 aims at adding a new dimension to tertiary education. Many of the 268 students are medical students, but not all. Dentistry can be studied. Other faculties are musical therapy, oriental studies and economics. There are about 50 staff members. Medical students are taught to take a more human attitude to patients and to handle them with feeling. One of the main driving forces behind the idea is a neurologist called Konrad Schily who is an anthroposophist, a believer in the doctrine expounded by Rudolph Steiner who lived from 1861 to 1925. Schily reveals in this interview with Dorothea Hilgenberg how as a young man he had this dream of a great *universitas*. The interview appeared in *Die Zeit*.

When the North Rhine-Westphalian Cabinet of Johannes Rau first heard the proposal for a private university, there was a great deal of disbelief. After all, the *Land* had just got a new public university. In addition, the idea of a private university seemed to contradict Social Democrat egalitarian ideas.

The propounder of the idea was Dr Konrad Schily, a head of department at a local Herdecke hospital which he had help to found some years before. The running of this hospital is strongly influenced by anthroposophical ideas.

No one doubted that Dr Schily had the best of motives, but the scheme was regarded with suspicion and it seemed that its fate might be that of many other brilliant ideas from fertile minds and disappear for ever into the filing cabinet.

Many bright minds don't have the qualities needed to push and prod until their ideas gain acceptance. But Dr Schily is made of sterner stuff. The only help he received was from former science minister Hanns Schwier and from journalists.

The university was to be something different, better than its public equivalent.

The genesis of the idea came from Dr Schily's youth. He completed his *student generale* in Basel and then turned to philosopher Karl Jaspers and literary scholar Walter Muschg for ideas. He attended mathematics lectures to find out about thinking processes.

His career as a medical student started as a hammer blow. He came in contact with bodies. There was nothing to do with medicine and nothing to do with patients. He watched his fellow students transformed into a mood of mordacity as his own appetite declined. He had never imagined medicine to be like this.

He changed. He studied a little less and began protesting strongly with the anti-nuclear movement. The effectiveness of the movement began to wane. Then he met a group of medical students "who really wanted to do something."

He was particularly impressed with a 15-year-old psychiatric assistant called Gerhard Kienle who was "an excellent medical student and even then adapting his work to people."

In those early days the idea of building a "different" hospital evolved. It was to be way beyond the scope of the local general hospital and they even imgained it to be just one part of a far greater whole — part of a *universitas*.

Kienle has now died, but he was one of the driving forces that helped convert the idea into reality.

The idea was to produce doctors who could act like people in their dealings with patients, who were capable of sometimes admitting not knowing something.

It was intended that students in economic fields should learn to deploy their creative talents so that they could be applied from the beginning to industrial and commercial needs. In all faculties, the aim was to gear education to developing powers of imagination within practice-oriented courses.

The State universities also claim these aims. Dr Schily therefore emphasises the unique qualities of Witten/ Herdecke, its principles of a wide-ranging education, the *studium fundamentale* with lectures on philosophy and history, or with practically oriented fine arts.

Nor are specialist areas ignored. But the wider implementation of Schily's ideas are fundamentally different, a heterogeneous overcladding in the context of a symbiotic broadness.

Dr Schily does not think that the strict selection criteria have helped "better people" to graduate at Witten/ Herdecke. He says that graduates are simply more experienced, more flexible and mentally nimble than other young academic graduates.

Dr Schily is the father of four children. He gives his views on education gladly but is not so keen on talking about his own personal life. He mentions his brother, Otto Schily, one of the best-known member of the Greens party in the Bundestag.

Dr Schily is the *spiritus rector*. The university's academic freedom is for him an energy-sapping adventure. While staff at the big State-run universities ask themselves how they can, with so many students, maintain their creativity, Dr Schily can shake his head.

His day-in, day-out problem is keeping the operation above water and finding the wherewithal to expand. And that means knocking on doors in a *Land* which has a poor tradition of patronage. This is something that had never, ever been envisaged in the family of father Franz Schily, a director of a Bochum steelworks.

Four large foundations agreed to help



Dreaming of a *universitas* ... Konrad Schily. (Photo: Brigitte Hellgoth)

out with Witten/Herdecke university. In addition there were donations of various sizes from industry and private people. More money would be earned by the university's own research units.

The annual budget of 10 million marks is safe. What is needed is more money for more faculties — 180 million marks over the next 10 years. That is a lot. But since Schily seems to rise to meet opposition such as that which he encountered from *Land* Science Minister Anke Brunn, there is plenty of room for surprise.

Schily says that it is easy to spend a lot of money without learning anything. "That's why we do a lot of careful thinking before taking even a single step."

He says there is no chance of the university's independence being compromised because of its reliance on money from industry. That would only happen if it did not have its own concept worked out, its own basic principles.

Dr Schily still practices neurology, but "on the side, like an aging doctor" who looks after patients he has known for years. He is, for example, reluctant to give up seeing a group of handicapped people with whom he has long worked.

He was one of five children. He went to a Waldorf school (run along Steiner's anthroposophist lines). Soon came the dream and then the realisation of part of it. But he did not expect to become one of the leading figures in recent German university history.

Dr Schily can imagine more faculties being added to Witten/Herdecke — philosophy and history, perhaps, and German philology.

Perhaps one day there will be a university college where teachers will be trained. Another one? you hear the authorities saying. Yes, answers Konrad Schily. But it would be a very different school with very different teachers.

Dorothea Hilgenberg
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 29 May 1987)

Using mathematical theory to solve technological problems

A new centre for applied mathematics at the Technical University of Darmstadt aims to bridge the gap between theoretical mathematics and problems in technology and science.

Three million marks have been supplied by the Volkswagen Foundation for three years. The institute is the idea of mathematicians from both the Darmstadt Technical University and the University of Kaiserslautern.

A spokesman said that there had been an enormous increase in the significance of mathematics for modern technology. Mathematics research had not until now been highly regarded.

The institute's aim is all for general mathematicians, not specialists, to use modern mathematics as the raw material to develop models for applying to technical and scientific problems. They should speak the language of the modern user of mathematics.

Already planned are projects involving traffic planning, bridge maintenance within financial limits.

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 24 May 1987)

Students rebel over plan to charge laggards

Lübecker Nachrichten

Plans in Lower Saxony to make students who take longer than the prescribed time to finish their university degrees pay a fee has drawn a mass reaction.

Students from universities and university college campuses throughout the *Land* have mounted protest marches and distributed pamphlets and Press releases.

The students point out that, in the first place, there are 81,000 student places in Lower Saxony yet there are about 124,000 students.

The *Land* government in Hanover wants to charge each *student who* takes three semesters longer than prescribed in Federal regulations 500 *marks a semester*. It is intended to make savings in the entire 1988 *Land* budget of ... billion marks. The aim is to lop ... million marks off the higher education budget between 1988 and 1992.

Heaviest protests were mounted in the university town of Göttingen, south of Hanover, where every third person of the population of 120,000 either studies or works at the university.

More than 30,000 turned out, including lecturers and professors. But the atmosphere was good and the *police* were not required to do anything more than look on.

A ceremony to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of Göttingen University was cancelled after protests and a refusal to attend lectures because the university authorities and the *Land* government feared trouble might erupt.

The protest crowd was disciplined and happy. Some were dressed as pink coloured child's pig-shaped money boxes. There were some sharply worded statements on balloons and some original quotes on banners.

The police stayed in the background. But they made it clear that the demonstrators should not let troublemakers push them over into violence.

In the meantime, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Finance confirmed that 3,518 students had paid 3,754 marks and 78 pfennigs into the *Land* treasury over the previous two weeks in protest.

The payments varied from a pfennig to five marks and were made with the request that the money be regarded as a down payment on fees in case the payer failed to complete studies in the prescribed time.

When the fee plan became public at the beginning of April, it seemed that the *Land* government had no idea what problems it would run into.

Within as few days, 20 university campuses in Lower Saxony had worked out a campaign of opposition. Their resistance was described in the Science Ministry as the biggest protest action since the 1960s.

For days, lecture halls and seminar room remained empty. Thousands of students went on to the streets and huge numbers of leaflets and Press releases were issued.

H.T. Fuhrmann
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 27 May 1987)

■ SOCIETY

Hard lines for software: authority bans computer-simulated war games

Bill Stealey does not look like a loser. Stealey, at the end of the 40s, is tailor-made for the role of the straight guy, a frank, purposeful American.

"I shall go to your government and say, 'Hey, you have prohibited my programme here in Germany. Let's talk about it'," Stealey, a reserve airforce major, said.

He prefers to be called "Wild Bill." He is managing director and co-founder of an American software firm headquartered in Maryland. The company, Micro Prose, specialises in computer games, most of them simulating war.

His sales hits simulate being in a submarine and flying with an American F 15 fighter plane.

But the distribution of these computer games has been prohibited by the Bonn-based Youth Protection Office on the grounds that they glorify war and violence.

These computer games are geared to giving the player the feeling that he is actually in the fighting situation. For instance in the game named "Silent Service," the submarine game, the player has the role of captain of an American submarine during the Second World War.

The highpoints of the game are the third patrol of the USS Tang in the Pacific from June 1944 or the seventh of the USS Seawolf in October 1942, accurately adapted.

The simulation of the F 15 fighter-bomber is along the same lines. Historical events are re-presented in a synthetic world, the player is put in the role of the American pilot flying in the attack on Libya's Ghadaffi.

Stealey's idea has been very successful. He has already sold 700,000 copies of the submarine and F 15 computer games "worldwide excluding Germany."

Other games — they cost between DM70 and DM80 each — put the player in the position of the D-Day commander when the Allies invaded Europe or the Nato commander during an imagined Soviet attack.

Stealey knows that his games are played mainly by men. He said: "Males between 16 and 40 make up 70 per cent of my customers." He maintains that his software is first class and of entertainment value. He also claims that players can learn while playing.

His advertising runs along these lines. Take for example "Conflict in Vietnam." He asks: "Would you read the 47 volumes of the Pentagon Papers? Probably not. If you want to get a good knowledge about this war would you put your faith in such films as *Rambo* or *Apocalypse Now?* I hope not."

He continued: "We believe that 'Conflict in Vietnam' is an ideal source of information about the war. Then the game is far more interesting than a book or a film, because you are involved in it all."

This is glorification of war says the Office for Youth Protection. Players are put in realistic situations that offer no peaceful way out. Fighting is the only way out.

These games are already very popular among young computer freaks. They are held for hours on end under the spell of this artificial world. They give their total concentration to the battle that they naturally want to win. The toll in lives is unimportant. Dying no longer hurts. Press "Reset" and another chance begins in the face of life's realities.

After delays this brought the Office for Youth Protection into the arena.

The first moves against these computer games came from Frankfurt. In 1984 the Office for Youth Affairs there applied to have a computer game entitled "River Raid" banned.

The player, the pilot of a jet fighter, flies along a river. His mission is to shoot up tankers, buildings, bridges, enemy helicopters and planes without getting hit himself.

If enough points are totted up the player gets a replacement plane. Now the attack is pressed home with greater risk. If the player is caught the game continues with the other aircraft.

In the grounds given for the ban on "River Raid" it was stated that the game would make children and young people under 18 anti-social. The game instructions clearly state that "killing is the central idea of the game's action."

The game provides the player with the experience of modern warfare, producing a high degree of emtional involvement. From the perspective of the game "violence is perceived as a justifiable means." War is glorified and is "presented as a romantic adventure with no mention or presentation of terror or suffering."

Twenty-nine titles have been banned in the Federal Republic. Applications for the prohibition of 15 other titles are before the Office for Youth Protection.

Gerhard Adam, speaking for the Office, said that in all likelihood these would also be banned.

He said that officials from the Office were looking more closely at the computer games business. But the Office can itself do nothing. Action has to be initiated by one of the state Youth Affairs Offices. Only then can the Office's examination committee get to work looking at the games.

When the danger to youth is obvious a small committee of three can ban a game. Otherwise an enlarged examining committee is convened made up of a chairman, three representatives from the states and eight from business groups.

Adam said that there were about 8,000 games suitable for the usual C 64 home computer. Including monitor and floppy disc the equipment costs about DM800.

Most players sit in front of the screen and send up in flames space craft, monsters or manikins with the help of a joystick.

At the beginning fantasy games provided the entertainment, but the trend led away from "Pac Man" who had to watch out going through a labyrinth that he was not destroyed by evil spirits.

Demand is now for games that come as near as possible to real situations. There is no limit to the games' lack of good taste.

One, banned by the Youth Protection Office, gives the player the role of guard in a concentration camp. A prisoner escapes and the player has to pursue him in a maze of passages and trap him to gain points.

Computers are getting more competitive and prices are falling. A computer with high picture definition and quick operation, both important for realistic simulation, now costs little more than DM1,000, only half the price being asked a year ago.

In these computers a player can give out a true death cry when hit as he heels over on the screen.

Software manufacturers have reacted quickly to developments in the hardware industry. It is all a matter of business.

"Wild Bill" Stealey's advancement has proceeded at the same fast pace that has taken place in the computer industry over the past few years.

In 1982 he founded his company Micro Prose along with Sid Meier, a brilliant, but shy and reserved programmer.

Sid Meier developed the games, Bill Stealey took care of sales. Micro Prose has now become in American one of the leading companies dealing in the specialised computer simulation game market.

Today 80 people work for the company, 30 of them programmers. Last year sales were around twelve million dollars, 90 per cent of this business done in the US.

The company has an annual growth rate of more than 30 per cent, so Stealey is looking for new markets.

His gaze fell on Europe. Since August last year Micro Prose has had an office in Britain.

It is estimated that the market for software in Europe is worth about DM60bn. France is top of the market with the Federal Republic coming second.

According to industry studies there are more than 15,000 national and international companies fighting for a share of the market. So it is not very profitable to be on the Youth Protection Office's banned list.

Following on the heels of the craze for games glorifying violence and war the Office is girding up its loins to meet the next onslaught on the German children's market, computer pornography.

The first programmes have been available for some time, a kind of strip poker, not imported but produced by a company in Hanover.

Key number 1 is Isabell, number 2 Florence, number 3 Denise and number 4 Stephanie.

The cards are shuffled. It is not hard to beat the girls. The programme includes five pictures each per seduction victim, from fully dressed to stark naked.

Thanks to technological development the pictures are not drawings but digitalised photographs, as the jargon would have it.

Anything that can be recorded by a video-camera can be transferred point for point to a graphic on a computer screen.

This has shocked the Federal Office for Youth Protection particularly. Gerhard Adam regards strip poker as relatively harmless, but technical developments are making it possible not only to produce illustrative material such as is printed in pornographic magazines, but by using techniques similar to cartoon filming action can be shown.

Hardcore pornogaphic shows are already available, not officially over the counter but on the lively computer software black market.

The Youth Protection Office concedes that it is a problem to control these banned computer programmes when the Federal Republic is the only country in Europe that prohibits them. The Office is relatively powerless to prevent the importation of software of this sort bought on holiday, for instance.

Since "Silent Service" was banned it has become a game doing good business on the black market.

A software pirate commented: "Because of the ban there is no German-language version. The ban then only goes to improve our English."

Some software suppliers are inclined to follow the example of the video industry and voluntarily apply limitations on certain programmes, selling them only to adults. Then Dad at least can experience war realistically in a synthetic situation.

The question that is being asked is: why do these simulation games hold such a fascination for old and young alike? There is a wide range of peaceable, realistic simulation programmes available for the growing number of households in West Germany with home and personal computers.

There are games, for instance, from which one can learn the basic principles of flying a Cessna light aircraft, starting up the plane, looping, flying by day or night, flying with side winds or turbulence and landing with the aid of the plane's instruments.

There is also a computer displaying the unique method used for starting up a mission in a space shuttle.

Equally sport simulation programmes are available, tennis, basketball, football, skiing and so on.

The interest is not only in total war, according to Bill Stealey. In May his company bought out a game of pirates in the Caribbean in the times when frigates and schooners sailed the high seas.

The player is a Dutch merchant or the captain of a French trading vessel. There is a little fighting, sword-play and broadsides from cannons.

But the Office for Youth Protection was equally against this historical re-enactment of adventures in the South Seas.

Michael Birnbaum
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 26 May 1987)

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rates failed to impose monetary discipline, and if the European Monetary System seems for the time being to be functioning more efficiently, then only because the Federal Republic as its senior partner pursues stable monetary policies.

But have there been international improvements? Not really.

The only alternative to floating exchange rates would be for the Western world to pursue uniform economic, budgetary and monetary policies, thereby making a uniform world currency possible.

Yet that is not even possible within the European Community, while in the West as a whole it seems totally unrealistic.

So there *is* no alternative to floating exchange rates: neither target bands for major currencies nor harmonisation of national economic policies nor controls of the international money supply.

Every country must be made to feel the pinch of its fiscal and monetary mistakes via the market value of its currency. The exchange rate alone imposes monetary discipline.

Money supply targets must also be set by central banks and not by politicians. It is hard to see how a Bundesbank director felt obliged, at the Swiss session of the *Tabak-Kollegium*, to voice scruples about setting — and publicly announcing — money targets.

As a rule the market alone arrives at the right exchange rate, outperforming even theories of purchasing power parity.

Franz Thoma
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 2 June 1987)

